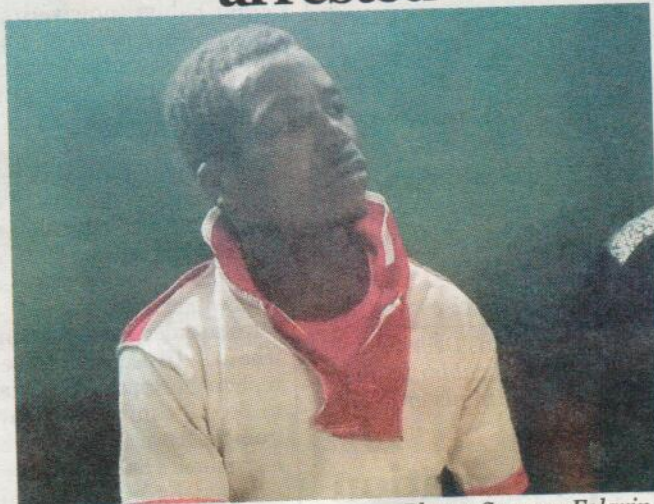


he was reportedly whisked away from the custody of around 1am on Sunday and bundled him out of the cell

Mob lynches suspected motorcycle thief, guard arrested



• Sanni

Photo: Samson Folarin

Samson Folarin

A security guard, Suleiman Sanni, is in the police net after a mob beat a suspected motorcycle thief, Moses Uche, to death in the Ajegunle area of Lagos State.

PUNCH Metro learnt that 30-year-old Sanni was among a three-man security team guarding a house on Otubo Street, Irawo, Ajegunle.

He was said to have spotted Uche sneaking into the neighbourhood around 2am and trying to steal a motorcycle.

It was learnt that Sanni woke up the residents and a mob quickly formed around 24-year-old Uche. The mob hit him with planks and other objects.

He was said to have been taken in a wheelbarrow around 7am to the Ajegunle Police Division, where he later died.

The police were said to have arrested Sanni for the crime.

The Katsina State indigene, however, told *PUNCH Metro* that he never touched the victim.

Sanni said, "I was guarding a house with two others. Around 2am on October 8, I sighted the man entering a house and trying to steal a motorcycle.

"When I challenged him, he said the motorcycle belonged to him. I alerted the residents of the house and they started hitting him."

Sanni said he rescued the suspect and reported the case at the Ajegunle Police Station, adding that he handed over the suspect to the police.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the police arrested four of the suspects, who were later released on bail.

Our correspondent learnt that Uche died two days after and the police returned to the community.

Sanni said, "I was arrested and taken to the station. Before I knew it, I was taken to the State Department of Criminal Investigation, Yaba."

The suspect was arraigned on one count of murder before an Ebute-Meta Magistrates' court.

The charge read, "That you, Suleiman Sanni, and others at large, on October 8, 2015, at about 2am on Otubo Street, Irawo, Ajegunle, Lagos, in the Lagos Magisterial District, did unlawfully kill one Moses Uche, aged 24 years, by beating him to death with planks."

The Police Prosecutor, Woman Corporal Iyobosa Onaiwu, said the offence was punishable under Section 221 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, Nigeria, 2011.

The defendant's plea was not taken.

The Magistrate, Miss M.O. Ope-Agbe, remanded him in prison.

The case was adjourned till January 19, 2016.

The state police confirmed Waidi's arrest said he had been released on bail. The command, however, did not disclose the sum for whom the youth was released.

Waidi's father, Mr. B. Kabiru, said he had been visiting his son since 1990 when he was arrested, adding that he had gone to the station to give him food on Sunday only to be told that he was no longer inside the cell.

He said, "He called me on the phone around 9am on Friday that he was arrested during a raid and I went to the station to see him. The policemen I met asked how much I had to bail him out and I said N4,000. He told me it wasn't enough and I left. I later came with N5,000, but I was told that the DPO had taken the case.

"On Saturday, I brought food for him (Waidi) to the station and was there the evening, trying to get his bail. When I got there on Sunday to give him

Stuc

Olaleye Aluko

THE police in Lagos have arrested a student from a polytechnic school.



• Collins