

Vulcaniser punches friend to death over

Olaleye Aluko

THE police in Lagos have arrested a 21-year-old vulcaniser, Moruf Fatai, for allegedly punching his 8-year-old friend, identified only as Agbamu, to death in the Ajangbadi area of the state.

PUNCH Metro learnt that Fatai had attacked his friend about 12pm on Tuesday, and allegedly killed him over a handset which he (Fatai) sold Agbamu, which the deceased later found out to be a stolen phone.

Our correspondent gathered that the two friends lived on Aji Fashola Road, in the Ibeju-Shibiri area of Ojo in the Ojo Local Council Development Area.

The suspect, said to be an Awori indigene, was said to

have sold a handset to Agbamu sometime last week. It was gathered that Agbamu, while using the phone, was accosted by a man who claimed that the phone was his and demanded that Agbamu showed him the seller of the phone.

PUNCH Metro gathered that Agbamu had brought the man

to Fatai's father's house, and the suspect confirmed that the phone might have been stolen. Fatai was said to have asked his friend to give the phone to the owner, while the deceased reportedly demanded a refund of his money, which led to the brawl.

Our correspondent learnt

that Fatai punched Agbamu hard in the chest, which made the victim slump.

He was said to have been rushed to a nearby hospital where he was confirmed dead. The matter was thereafter reported at the Ilemba Hausa Police Division, and Fatai was arrested.

A neighbour, who identified himself as Ebere Chukwuka, said Fatai had also hit the deceased for daring to call him a thief.

He said, "They have been friends for years in this area, despite their age differences. Agbamu used to be a tenant in Moruf (Fatai)'s father's house. Agbamu worked in a hotel, while Moruf is a vulcaniser. The suspect had last week sold a handset to Agbamu for undisclosed sum.

he had vacated his Abeokuta home along with his three

"But on Tuesday, Agbamu showed up at the suspect's father's house that the phone was stolen, and an owner had come for it. Moruf said it was not his own business. Agbamu said the vulcaniser must refund his money, and a fight started.

"The boy just went in, came out and hit the victim in the chest. I believe he hit Agbamu with a charm because Agbamu became weak and slumped."

A source in the area told our correspondent that the deceased's mother, who learnt about her son's death a few minutes after, went to report to a community leader, who then invited the police from Ilemba Hausa.

He said, "Fatai's parents were also in the house during the fight, but the suspect just went out of control. After Agbamu

strange faces around his

handset

had slumped and been taken to a hospital, Fatai still rode a motorcycle to the deceased's house to warn the family that they should caution their son.

"Agbamu's mother thought the vulcaniser was mentally unstable until she was told that the suspect had allegedly punched her son to death. People then rallied round, and bundled the suspect to the Baale's house, where the policemen came to arrest him."

The deceased's mother was said to be distraught and was not at home. The suspect's parents were also unwilling to talk to PUNCH Metro on the incident.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Joe Offor, said he would get back to our correspondent on the incident.



• Fatai's apartment

Photo: Olaleye Aluko