

Gunmen kill carpenter in presence of one-year-old son

By - December 11, 2015



Joseph

Olaleye Aluko

Tragedy struck on Olufemi Street, Off Bajulaiye Road, in the Somolu area of Lagos State when gunmen invaded the area, and shot dead a 35-year-old furniture maker, Joseph Agboola.

PUNCH Metro learnt that Joseph and his one-year-old baby boy were lying on the bonnet of his car in front of their apartment when the gunmen fired in his direction, during which he was hit.

Our correspondent learnt that the gunmen, who came in a tricycle (*Keke Marwa*), came at about 7pm on **Wednesday**.

The hoodlums reportedly shot sporadically, during which two residents were injured, while a van belonging to the Lagos State Water Corporation, parked on the street, was also riddled with bullets.

Our correspondent gathered that Joseph, who hailed from Badagry, Lagos, was mistaken for a member of a rival cult by the gunmen who killed him.

It was learnt that earlier in the evening, some hoodlums, said to be members of Eiye Confraternity, had converged on the Bajulaiye canal and were smoking hemp. Some of them were identified as Rasak, aka *Elewure*; Lolade, aka *Makayoko*, and *Body*.

PUNCH Metro learnt that Joseph, a furniture maker, had returned from work at about 7pm, and met his wife cooking in the kitchen and trying to calm their one-year-old boy who was crying.

Joseph was said to have taken the boy and headed outside, telling his wife that he wanted to take some fresh air.

Our correspondent gathered that minutes after the hemp-smoking hoodlums dispersed from the canal, the gunmen arrived at the scene, and fired at Joseph, who was mistaken to be one of the rival cultists.

Joseph was said to have been thereafter rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was confirmed dead. The matter was said to have been reported at the Alade Police Division.

Speaking with *PUNCH Metro*, Joseph's elder brother, Anthony Agboola, said a woman who tried to rescue the baby was also targeted by the gunmen, adding that she hid under the LASG van parked in the area.

He said, "When Joseph came back from work, there was no power supply. He parked his car, and went in to pick his crying baby. He then laid on the bonnet of the car. When the gunmen came, they shot at him.

"A neighbour, who tried to rescue the baby boy, was also targeted by the gunmen. She had to hide under a government van parked near the place. The case has been taken to the Homicide Section of the State Department of Criminal Investigation, Yaba. Joseph's wife is presently in our hometown. The family is very sad."

An executive of the Community Development Association, identified only as Toyin, said

residents now feared any *Keke Marwa* operating in the area in the evenings, as they were used by cultists for attacks.

He said, "The police have arrested one of the hoodlums identified as *Body*. The man was mistakenly shot dead by the gunmen, who are believed to be Eiye cult members. They came in a *Keke Marwa* and shot at innocent people. He was clutching his baby to his chest when they shot him.

"One of the hoodlums that the gunmen trailed to the area has just finished an eight-year jail term. They were all at a spot that evening smoking hemp. They dispersed when they learnt a rival gang was on its way.

"Seeing *Keke Marwa* at night is now a sign of danger in Somolu. The man was only taking fresh air in front of his house when he was shot. Neighbours tried to rush him to a hospital, but he died on the way."

Our correspondent gathered that another resident, identified only as Alaba, was injured by the gunmen.

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

He, however, had yet to get back as of press time.

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