

# Policemen kill father of one during Lagos raid

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*Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Fatai Owoseni*

## **Olaleye Aluko and Adewale Ogungbemi**

There was panic on Osogbo Street in the Itire area of Lagos State after policemen on a raid shot indiscriminately, during which a father of one was killed.

*PUNCH Metro* learnt that apart from the deceased, identified only as *Elewure*, a resident, whose name had yet to be known, was hit, and had been rushed to a private hospital.

*Elewure* was said to be a commercial driver who plied Oshodi to Obalende route.

Our correspondents gathered that on **Wednesday**, a hoodlum living in the area was caught by other residents brandishing a gun.

The residents were said to have disarmed him, after which the hoodlum allegedly invited policemen from the Itire division, alleging that residents had guns in their possession.

*PUNCH Metro* learnt that policemen from the division at about 12pm moved into Osogbo Street to raid the area and began shooting sporadically.

The gunshots were said to have caused confusion as residents and shop owners scampered to safety.

Some of the hoodlums were said to have also hurled pebbles at the policemen, intensifying the shooting.

*PUNCH Metro* gathered that Elewure, said to be passing by, was shot and he died while being rushed to a hospital.

Our correspondents gathered that two policemen in the patrol team had been arrested by the Aguda Police Division and were being detained at the Area C Command, Surulere.

When *PUNCH Metro* visited the area, a resident, who identified himself as Musa Onitere, said *Elewure* worked as a commercial driver at Pako Aguda Motor Park.

He said, "I learnt that two groups fought over the ownership of a gun a day before the incident. The policemen were invited from Itire to make peace between the groups on that Wednesday.

"In the afternoon, I began to hear gunshots. Everyone left their goods and fled, while some people locked their doors. When the

dust settled, a man was found dead; the victim did not belong to either of the factions.

"The deceased was a commercial driver. He was a hardworking man."

A shop owner, who gave his name only as Akinyele, said the Rapid Response Squad policemen came to the area to restore normalcy after *Elewure* had been killed.

He said, "After the Itire policemen left, the RRS men brought three patrol vans and calmed everyone down."

A member of the Oodua Peoples' Congress, who spoke to *PUNCH Metro* on condition of anonymity, identified the two policemen detained simply as *Pastor* and *Alake*.

He said, "The policemen are known to many people. They are from the Itire division. I only know them as *Pastor* and *Alake*. The policemen have been taken to the Area C Command, Surulere. One of the hoodlums had invited them.

"The hoodlum had taken a gun to fight with some people. The residents collected the gun from him; but the hoodlum invited the police, and as the policemen were shooting, two people were hit. One of them died, while the other is still in a hospital receiving treatment. The matter was first reported at the Aguda Police Division, but it has now been transferred to the Area C Command."

When *PUNCH Metro* got to Pako Aguda Park, none of *Elewure's* friends could link our correspondents with his wife.

It was gathered that the corpse of the driver had been deposited in a morgue.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Dolapo Badmos, said investigation was ongoing into the matter.

“The case is under investigation at the area command,” she said in a text message.