

Hoodlums wreak havoc on community, kill worker

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Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Fatai Owoseni

Samson Folarin

Mushin area of Lagos State has again erupted in violence as suspected hoodlums engaged one another in supremacy battle, unleashing mayhem on residents of Lawani and Ojelade streets.

A worker in a small scale firm in the area, identified as Segun Akube, 30, was said to have been shot dead by the hoodlums.

PUNCH Metro learnt that since Akube was killed on Saturday, the area had not known peace.

When our correspondent visited the area on Tuesday, the gates to the two streets were locked.

A resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the hoodlums attacked Lawani and Ojelade streets around 2pm on Saturday.

He said, "They smashed concrete blocks on Akube's head and one of them shot him dead. They also stole about N70,000 from his boss."

A resident of Lawani Street, who identified himself as Toheeb, alleged that the victim was killed by hoodlums working for one Toba, a former member of the National Union of Road Transport Workers.

Toheeb claimed that Toba's boys raided the area in a bid to take over the community.

He said, "Toba controls the Mushin and Fadeyi areas, while I lead the Jibowu area.

"Toba was in my area on Saturday to take over my street."

Toheeb said he prevented the burial of the victim to allow the police conclude their investigation and bring the culprits to book.

Around 12pm, our correspondent observed some policemen from the Alakara division in the area.

The Divisional Crime Officer, who declined to give his name, said policemen had been patrolling the area since the previous night to forestall further bloodshed.

A 68-year-old woman, Alhaja Olamide Shosanya, said the situation was getting worse, adding that her daughter, Abike, was attacked by the hoodlums on Tuesday.

She said, "Since Saturday, I have not been able to go out in my car because of Toba's boys. The government must do something urgently."

Another resident, John, said he always took longer routes to his house to avoid being killed.

Toba, however, denied having a hand in the mayhem, saying his accusers were out to destroy his reputation.

He said, "I don't know these people and I am not involved in their fight. Toheeb and I are not fighting over anything. I don't know why they are after me."

A resident of Adewusi Street, who identified himself as Dare Esan, and another resident of Kadiri Street, who identified himself as Saheed, however, said the incident was the aftermath of fallout between Toheeb and his boys.

Esan said, "Toheeb and one Baba Tawa were formerly OPC guards in the area. When Baba Tawa left the community, he handed over to Toheeb.

“Toheeb and his boys always collect money from commercial drivers in the Jibowu area. They collect a lot of money every Sunday.

“However, Toheeb and his boys had issues over money and his boys decided to keep troubling his domain so that he would not enjoy the money he collects.

“If Toheeb can resolve the dispute between him and his boys, then there will be peace. The police should, however, solve this problem permanently.”

The Police Public Relations Officer, SP Dolapo Badmos, said, “Operatives from the Mushin division had a report that there was a man lying dead on the floor in the Fadeyi area. On arrival, a male corpse, whose identity has yet to be known, was seen with gunshot injury in the head. The corpse was taken to a morgue, while investigation is ongoing.”

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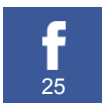
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