

Suspected fraudster dies while running from Lagos policemen

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Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Fatai Owoseni

Samson Folarin

A 24-year-old man, Michael, aka *Aboy LifeofGinjah*, has died after he was injured by a spike beside the swimming pool of a hotel in the Ikotun area of Lagos State.

PUNCH Metro learnt that some policemen attached to the Anti-Kidnapping Unit of the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department, Yaba, had invaded Oyins Holiday Inns on Friday.

The men, who were said to be on illegal duty, were reported to have accosted the victim and ordered him to open his phone for a check.

The victim, who was said to be afraid of being extorted by the policemen, reportedly fled the scene.

As he tried to scale the swimming pool, a spike around the pool reportedly hooked him.

Some of his friends were said to have rushed him to a private hospital in the area from where he was referred to a general hospital. He was confirmed dead at the public hospital.

Some of his angry friends and lodgers at the hotel were said to have protested the incident, accusing the policemen of being responsible for the death.

A witness, who did not want to be identified, said the Area Commander, Area M Police Command, later sued for peace and promised to investigate the incident.

The witness said, “Around 8pm on Friday, some armed policemen from Yaba, who wore the Anti-Kidnapping police vest, entered the hotel and started harassing everybody.

“When they saw the boy, they asked to check his phone. He was not a criminal, but because he knew what SARS were up to, he wanted to run away.

“The hotel has a pool surrounded by spikes. He was trying to scale the spikes when he fell on one of them, which entered into his stomach. His friends took him to a private hospital at the back of the hotel.

“The hospital referred him to the general hospital. However, he died on the way and was confirmed dead at the hospital.”

He said the management of the hotel alerted the Area M Commander, who addressed the victim’s friends and called for calm.

PUNCH Metro gathered that Michael was the first of four children and was his parents’ only son.

One of Michael’s friends, who identified himself simply as Oluwabiola, said he was buried on Ibijoke Oke Street, Liasu Road on Sunday.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Olarinde Famous-Cole, promised to react, but had yet to do so as of press time.