

I'm too young to be a widow – Wife of mechanic killed by Ikorodu mob

BRIEFLY introduce yourself.

I am Mrs. Afolashade Abimbola, 29 years old. I studied Industrial & Labour Relations at the Olabisi Onabanjo University. I got married in 2015 to Shola and we have a son, who is one year and three months old. My husband worked as a mechanic in an engineering firm in FESTAC town before his death.

When last did you see your husband?

I saw him last on the night of Saturday, July 1. We live in Igando area of Lagos. He told me he needed to go to Ikorodu to help his friend, Chinedu Paul, also known as Think Twice, to fix his car. I knew Chinedu as his friend so I didn't really bother when he mentioned that he was going to his place.

What were his last words to you?

He told me that if Chinedu's car did not start in Ikorodu,

he would have to tow the car from Ikorodu to his workshop in FESTAC. He left home in Igando close to 9pm. About 10pm, I spoke to him and he told me he was at Agric area in Ikorodu. That was the last thing I heard from him.

What happened after then?

A few minutes past 2am on Sunday, July 2, I called him. Someone picked the call for about six seconds and ended the call. I called back again, the same thing happened. I initially did not entertain any fear. But later, my instinct told me that something was wrong. I kept on hoping that he would eventually call me. When I didn't hear from him, I called his brother's wife who knew Chinedu, to enquire about his whereabouts. She told me it's long she heard from Chinedu. On Monday morning,

I was told to bring his pictures by an unknown caller. On getting to Ikorodu, I met Chinedu's mother, who told me my husband, Chinedu and another mechanic who accompanied him to Ikorodu, had been killed overnight by angry residents who mistook them for members of the Badoo cult terrorising Ikorodu. I wept.

Was your husband a member of Badoo?

How could he be a Badoo member? He was not a cultist. He worked in FESTAC and lived in Igando. He probably didn't know there was a cult group called Badoo. If he had known, he would not have gone to Ikorodu. He was an easy-going man who minded his business. Chinedu was a popular comedian and that was the reason for the buzz on social media.

But a few people knew my husband. Since the news reached me, I have been devastated. The other guy who was killed too was a technician at the firm. They were childhood friends. He was not a Badoo member. They were not hooligans. They only went to do their job and unfortunately, the people killed them. It is unfair that people will take the law into their hands.

What's your reaction to the way the matter has been handled so far?

You don't expect me to be happy. I want justice. There should be justice. My husband must not die in vain. They have set me on a journey of sorrow since Saturday. I am too young to be a widow. I have no job. I have been a full housewife since we got married. My husband planned that when my baby is a year and six months old, I would start working. By August this year, I would be 30. Where do I start from now?

My son's killers won't go scot-free – Mum of slain comedian

PLEASE tell us about yourself.

I am Celestina, mother of comedian Chinedu Paul aka Think Twice, mistaken for a member of the Badoo cult and killed by a mob in Ikorodu.



didn't release his corpse to you at the mortuary...

We went to the mortuary on Monday, July 3. It was there that we found out that the people that carried out the attack were



•The late Shola and his wife, Afolashade