

METRO PLUS

Robbers loot Ogun community, kill engineer

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Adebayo

. Hospital rejects victim over bullet injuries

Samson Folarin

Tragedy struck on Madam Felicia Street, Orimerunmu, Ofada-Mokoloki, in the Obafemi Owode Local Government Area of Ogun State, after a senior engineer with an Information and Communications Technology company, Adebayo Akinwunmi, was shot dead by suspected robbers.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the victim was killed around 1am on Sunday, May 13, when the four-man gang attacked the community.

An eyewitness, who did not want to be identified for security reasons, said the men scaled the fence into the engineer's house.

He said, "They were four in number and did not wear any mask. The man's wife was sleeping when they shouted through the window that the family should open the door. They showed their guns and threatened to shoot.

"The man asked the wife to stay in the bedroom and assured the robbers that he would open the door. He was about to open the door when the men, who had become impatient, broke the door with their legs.

"As they were querying the man for being sluggish, the wife came out and started begging them.

"They asked the wife what they had and she gave them their ATM cards, phones and laptops.

“One of them just shot the engineer in the rib. Others queried the man for shooting him and they hurriedly left the apartment.

“They led the wife out and asked her to open the gate and find someone that would take the husband to a hospital. They asked her not to shout.”

Our correspondent learnt that the wife contacted the sister-in-law, who got a vehicle with which the victim was taken to a private medical facility in the area.

He was reportedly rejected as the doctors allegedly demanded a police report for the gunshot injuries.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the wife asked that he should be taken to Reddington Hospital, Ikeja, the hospital that his company used. However, he was again rejected at the hospital.

A close family member said doctors at the hospital also demanded a police report.

“We were finally referred to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja, where we were told that there was no surgeon to attend to him due to the ongoing strike actions of medical doctors in the country.

“Because there was nobody to attend to us, he gave up at LASUTH. He would have marked his 41 years birthday on May 29, 2018.

“This is the fifth time that the robbers would attack their house. The previous times, the robbers burgled the house when they were not at home. This was the only time they met them at home,” she added.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the Abeokuta, Ogun State indigene, and his wife, Nike, had been married for 10 years.

He was said to have been survived by an aged mother, wife and two children.

Our correspondent was told that the management of his company and the police from the Mowe division visited the family on Sunday.

His widow was said to have passed out on seeing the corpse before he was buried according to Islamic rites.

“He was a quiet and religious man. He was also very hard-working. He was a senior engineer at Ericsson and was awarded the best staff member of the company exactly a year ago. The company rewarded his family with an all-expense paid trip to the USA. It is such a big loss,” another family member said.

A resident, who asked not to be identified for security reasons, said four other houses in the neighbourhood were raided.

“After they left the man’s house, they went to four other houses where they stole valuables. The robbers operated without any challenge from the local vigilance group or policemen from the surrounding divisions,” he said.

When our correspondent contacted Reddington Hospital, Ikeja, a medical official at the emergency unit, said he was not on duty at the time and could not comment.

When pressed for information on the hospital’s policy on bullet-wound patients, he said a police report used to be a requirement for treatment, but there had been a change.

He asked our correspondent to call back after one hour.

When our correspondent called back, nobody was available to speak on the matter.

A representative of the hospital at its headquarters on the Victoria Island, however, said her findings showed that it was a requirement at the headquarters.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Abimbola Oyeyemi, confirmed the incident, adding that the police were on the trail of the suspects.

He said, “It was an unfortunate incident. The state Commissioner of Police, Ahmed Iliyasu, has deployed men of the Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad in the area. We have enough clues and very soon, we will bring them to justice. In fact, men of the FSARS are closing in on them as we speak. This kind of crime has never been perpetrated in Ogun without the assailants being arrested and this will not be an exception.”