

# he met

by the suspect, adding that she woke up around 1am on Tuesday and found herself in bed with Badejo.

The source said early that day, the suspect had another round of sex with her.

He said, "Actually, the girl's brother gave her a mobile phone sometime in January 2018 and she opened a Facebook account. That was how she accepted the friendship request of the suspect in February and they started chatting.

"After her mother collected the phone from her, the man gave one of her friends his telephone number and succeeded in luring her and the friends to his shop. He bought drinks for them that day.

"The girl in her statement said he later invited her to his house. The first time she went, he did not do anything to her. It was the second time that he abducted her; she was in her school uniform that day.

"Despite the fact that the girl was menstruating, he forcefully made love to her after drugging her drink. She woke up at 1am after midnight. That morning again, he raped her. When the girl tried to shout, he covered her mouth. The girl said all her begging fell on deaf ears."

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Chike Oti, confirmed the incident, adding that the state Commissioner of Police, Edgal Imohimi, had ordered that the case should be transferred to the gender unit of the command headquarters.

He said the pupil was deceived by the suspect's pretence on the social media.

He said, "The girl is 15 years old, while the man claims to be 25 years old. They met on Facebook, where the man claimed to be a pastor and sent her prayer messages. The girl thought she was talking to a pastor, not knowing that he is a wolf in sheep's clothing. As a friend, he invited her to a place and she accepted. On getting there, he took her to his friend's house and had his way with her.

"We suspect that the girl was drugged before he had the marathon sex with her. This was because when police operatives got there, they met a half-filled bottle of soft drink, with a chemical like sodium. We are trying to analyse the substance and the drink the girl took."

Oti said the suspect's friend, who aided the crime, had also been arrested.

## Policemen dispersing street fight allegedly kill salesman

Deji Lambo

**R**ESIDENTS of Ajegunle, Lagos State, have demanded justice for the death of one Obinna, a salesman who was allegedly killed by a police stray bullet during a street fight in the area.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the police had been invited to disperse the fighters when the victim was hit by the bullet in a provisions store on Okoya Street.

Our correspondents gathered that the street had been invaded by some hoodlums known as Cemetery boys, who were armed with machetes and stones.

The men were reported to have attacked residents and used the opportunity to rob some residents and passersby.

Some residents of Okoya were reported to have mobilised against the attack by hauling stones and broken bottles at the invaders.

A friend of the late Obinna, Adams Isiaka, said he was with the 21-year-old when policemen from the Layeni division started shooting to disperse the warring parties.

He said the deceased had attempted to close the shop when he was felled by the stray bullet.

He said, "We were in the shop



• The victim

Photo: Family

together on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, when the incident happened. Someone came to alert us that there was a fight on the street. So, Obinna quickly stood up to lock the shop. Unfortunately, he was hit by a bullet fired by the policemen, who were trying to chase away the warring parties.

"He was rushed to a medical centre where he died on Sunday. Although I don't know anything

about the street fight, I know that the bullet was fired by a policeman."

PUNCH Metro gathered from residents that the supremacy fight between the Cemetery boys and Okoya boys had been recurring and a police team had been permanently stationed at Okoya Junction to check any uprising.

A resident, who did not want to be identified, said the

Cemetery boys invaded the street around 9pm.

"During the invasion, the police were informed and they came to chase them away. In the process of chasing the hoodlums away, the policemen were attacked and the cops started shooting. The hoodlums had no gun; just cutlasses, machetes and stones. It was one of the police bullets that killed Obinna," he added.

Another resident, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said the victim was rejected at the private hospital where he was taken to for lack of a police report.

He said the shop owner, identified only as Mr. Uzor, later got the report before treatment started.

"Mr. Uzor went to the policemen at Okoya Junction to demand a police report because the hospital rejected him on the grounds that they needed the report before starting treatment.

"In fact, if not for the timely intervention of Obinna's neighbour, who is a policeman, the treatment would not have started on time. The doctor, who attended to Obinna, just stitched the bullet hole without verifying if the bullet was still in him or not.

"After his case worsened, we were forced to do an X-ray that revealed that the bullet was still lodged in his body. The bullet