

Drunken cop kills friend during Sallah celebration in Ogun

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Inspector General of Police, Ibrahim Idris

Afeez Hanafi

A party organised on Thursday to mark Sallah celebrations at Transformer Bus Stop, Adiyan, in Ogun State turned bloody when a trigger-happy policeman, identified simply as Ola SARS, shot his friend dead.

Saturday PUNCH learnt that the victim, one 36-year-old Ayinde aka Aye, and the policeman were invited to the party by the youth leader of the community popularly known as Azeez Terror. The party was reportedly organised by Azeez Terror's father, who is a land agent.

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Our correspondent gathered that all was well at the gathering until around 7pm when Ola SARS, who is reportedly serving in Abuja, started misbehaving under the influence of alcohol.

He was said to have shot into the air intermittently and refused to yield to cautions by other guests. He wanted to pull the stunt again when a bullet struck

Ayinde in the chest.

In the ensuing confusion, it was learnt that Azeez Terror, his father and the policeman fled the scene while the father of two was rushed to a hospital, where he died.

A resident, who gave his name only as Bidemi, told our correspondent on Friday that some youths of the community staged a protest which caused pandemonium in the neighbourhood, adding that it took the intervention of the police to restore normalcy.

He said, "It was Azeez Terror's father that organised the party to celebrate Sallah. It is a yearly event. The youth leader invited his friends including Ola SARS and Ayinde. I learnt Ola SARS works in Abuja. The party commenced in the afternoon and there was no issue until around 7pm.

"He started shooting into the air after he became drunk. Nobody provoked him. As he wanted to fire another shot into the air, he misfired and shot Ayinde in the chest. He bled profusely and was rushed to the hospital. He died shortly afterwards.

"As I speak with you, Azeez Terror, his father and the killer policeman are still at large. It was very sad. The deceased was an estate agent and had two kids. His wife has been inconsolable since

yesterday (Thursday).”

Another resident, Solomon Babatunde, said he was on a visit at FESTAC Town when a neighbour called him on the telephone and informed him about the crisis.

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He called on the police authorities to fish out the killer cop and bring him to justice.

Babatunde said, “Oloriodo’s (the youth leader’s) father held a party on Thursday to mark Sallah. He invited his police friends to the party. I learnt that while the party was on, one of the policemen started shooting and a bullet hit Aye (Ayinde) in the chest.

“Azeez and his father fled the community. I was told everywhere was tense as a result of the protest. I had to pass the night at FESTAC Town where I went to.”

The Ogun State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Abimbola Oyeyemi, confirmed the incident, adding that the command had launched a manhunt for the suspect.