

Suspected robbers kill Anglican bursar, steal money in Ondo

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Scene of the incident

Peter Dada, Akure

Some men suspected to be armed robbers have killed the bursar of the Akure Diocese of the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion, Mr Gabriel Abiodun.

It was gathered that the deceased was shot dead at the diocesan office in Alagbaka area of Akure on Thursday shortly after returning from the bank, where he had withdrawn money meant for the church.

According to an eyewitness, the suspected robbers, who were three in number, trailed the deceased from the bank to his office, where they collected the money, shot him and ran away.

The eyewitness said, “We saw three men in an ash Toyota Corolla car following him; initially, we thought they were police or DSS operatives, but we later discovered who they were when they brought out guns. Two of the men followed the bursar into his office and the other stayed outside.

“We did not know what transpired between them inside the office, but all we know is that he was shot inside the office and the hoodlums went away with the money.

“We rushed him to hospital but he did not survive the gunshot injuries and died before getting to hospital. The late Abiodun had been working with us for the past eight years.”

It was gathered that the amount stolen from the deceased was over N500,000 and was meant to address some issues in the church.

When contacted the state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Femi Joseph, confirmed the incident and said investigation had commenced on it.

Joseph said, “The hoodlums followed the deceased from the bank to his office, where they carried out the dastardly act; we are already on their trail. I want to give an assurance that we will arrest them.

“I also want to use this opportunity to advise our people that anybody who wants to withdraw huge amount of money from the bank should always involve the police so as to prevent this kind of incident.”

In his reaction, the Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, Venerable Blessing Aregbesola, who spoke for the bishop of the diocese, Simeon Borokini, described the incident as sad and unfortunate, adding that it had been reported to the police.

Aregbesola said, “It is shocking and very unfortunate. The issue of insecurity in Nigeria is becoming embarrassing. For someone to go to the bank and within

30 minutes was gunned down, that means that nobody is safe. It is very unfortunate.

“We have reported to the police and the DSS, and I think we should allow them to do their work; but to us, it is unacceptable.”

The remains of the deceased were evacuated and taken to the mortuary by the personnel of the state police command.

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