

# Hoodlums kill two, injure other during attack on tricycle operators

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• My son was murdered a day to his birthday – Victim's mother  
*Deji Lambo*

Sorrow has engulfed the family of Bashiru Shakiru, who was shot dead by suspected hoodlums during an attack on commercial tricycle operators in the Kola area of the Ijaiye-Ojokoro Local Council Development Area of Lagos State.

Shakiru, it was learnt, was fleeing from the scene of the attack when the hoodlums accosted him, destroyed his tricycle and shot him dead.

Also, a passer-by, whose name was unknown as of the time of filing this report, was said to be seeking a safe place to hide during the attack when a commercial bus suddenly knocked him down and killed him.

*PUNCH Metro* gathered from eyewitnesses that a known hoodlum allegedly mobilised others to attack the tricycle operators for refusing his demand for the payment of an alleged illegal fee of N500 per tricycle operator before conveying people to their

various destinations in the area.

The tricycle operators allegedly refused to pay the charge to the hoodlum and his accomplices, because officials of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, Branch D, Agbado-Oke Odo, which they belong to, had earlier collected money from them.

A commercial tricycle operator, Saheed Adebayo, said he was conveying passengers to their various destinations when the hoodlums attacked him.

“I was conveying passengers when the hoodlums stopped me and started attacking me with cutlasses and axes. They cut my head, hand, laps and buttocks; the people around rushed me to hospital for treatment,” the 30-year-old said.

An eyewitness, Kazeem Akinbode, said he knew when the hoodlums shot Shakiru, who died while being rushed to hospital.

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The 41-year-old tricycle operator said, “I was there when Shakiru was killed; we were on our way when the hoodlums attacked us around Merit junction and we all ran for safety and while running, I saw that the boy (Shakiru) was shot in the stomach.

“We tried to rescue him but he died on the way to hospital.”

The deceased’s mother, Muinat, said her son was killed a day to his 22nd birthday, adding that after the hoodlums had shot him dead, his corpse was dumped in front of the house.

She stated, “I was sick on the day the incident occurred, so I was indoors sleeping, but a telephone call woke me up around 7pm. My friend, who called me, said tricycle operators were fighting and that I needed to caution my son to go home. So, I quickly went out in search of him and when I saw him, I told him to go home.

“He was on his way home around Merit junction when the hoodlums attacked and shot him dead. I felt intense pain seeing his corpse dumped in front of our house.”

The Chairman, NURTW, Branch D, Agbado-Oke Odo, Azeez Abiola, while lamenting that the hoodlums were fond of attacking members of his union, condemned Shakiru’s killing.

He stated that the union had instructed the tricycle operators to desist from paying unauthorised people money.

Abiola said, “The hoodlums are not just attacking us, whenever they attack, they burn our tricycles, break the windshields of our tricycles and injure our members. We have reported them to the police; some of the hoodlums were arrested and charged to court. We thought the matter had been resolved.

“But on Monday, the hoodlums mobilised again and were demanding an illegal fee of N500 from each tricycle operator and our members reported to us and we instructed them not to give money to anybody who did not have the NURTW tickets. So, the hoodlums got annoyed and started attacking

them; the hoodlums injured the tricycle operators with weapons and ran away, only for them to reinforce around 6pm and started shooting at our members.

“I reported to the Divisional Police Officer of the Alagbado Police Station, who sent patrol men to areas where the hoodlums were attacking us, but the hoodlums were shooting and harassing people even in the presence of the police.

“During the attack, they shot one of our members, Shakiru, in the stomach and he died on the spot. The other person, who was killed was trying to escape from the scene of the attack when he was crushed to death by a commercial bus.”

Abiola added that some of the injured operators were taken to the G and T Hospital for treatment, while the remains of Shakiru were buried in accordance to Islamic rites.

While charging the police to help arrest and prosecute the hoodlums terrorising the area, Abiola, said the association had provided adequate support to the bereaved family.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Bala Elkana, said three suspects had been arrested in connection with the crime, adding that they had been charged to court.

Elkana said, “There was a fight between hoodlums and tricycle operators on Monday and three suspects were arrested that day. The suspects have been charged to court.