

Controversy trails suspected building materials thief's death in Osun

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Osun State CP, Abiodun Ige

Bola Bamigbola, Osogbo

The Osun State Police Command, on Tuesday, said one Ibrahim Olaiya was killed by a mob on the campus of the Redeemer's University, Ede, while attempting to move out some building materials.

The death of Ibrahim, said to be the son of a prominent Islamic cleric, on Sunday, has been a subject of controversy among some interest groups in the town.

However, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Folasade Odoro, confirmed to our correspondent in Osogbo that a mob killed the suspect.

She said investigation was being intensified to enable the command to get to the root of the matter.

Some residents of Ededimeji, an area close to the university's College of Engineering, where the incident occurred, explained that the deceased was shot after he and his accomplice were apprehended.

Ibrahim was said to have later died in hospital as a result of injuries he sustained following the mob attack.

But another source in Ededimeji, who identified himself simply as Idris, said, “Ibrahim had gone to the Redeemer’s University to evacuate some building materials that were stolen and kept in a place very early on Sunday.

“He went with a mini bus. But some members of the Odua People’s Congress engaged by the university to keep watch over the area caught and shot him and he later died.”

But reacting to the claim, the Head, Directorate of Public Affairs, Redeemer’s University, Ede, Adetunji Adeleye, said reports available to him indicated that a suspected thief was attacked by a mob, while attempting to move some stolen items out of the campus.

Adeleye added that the deceased did not die on the premises of the institution, noting that Ibrahim was attacked by a mob when residents of the area raised the alarm that thieves were operating there.

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He said, “From the report made available to me, the man was killed by a mob. And he didn’t die on our campus. He and his partner were even rescued by our security team after the mob had attacked them.

“On the day of the incident, some thieves had invaded the Ededimeji area in two buses and attacked about 25 houses. They later moved to our campus and stole some iron rods and packed them in two buses. Some residents, however, raised the alarm and people were able to apprehend two of the suspects.

“Before our security men could get to the scene, the two suspects had been beaten by the mob that gathered following the outcry from the residents. The man (Ibrahim) did not die on our campus. We don’t have OPC guards; there is nothing like that. Our security men don’t use guns, because we are non-violent.”

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