

Woman demands justice for son drowned during raid

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Adefemi

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Mrs Aderemi Aiyela, the mother of Adefemi, one of the 10 youths allegedly chased into the lagoon by men of the Anti-Cultism Unit, Lagos State Police Command, has demanded justice for her son.

She called on the police authorities to bring all the cops involved in the incident to book, identifying the team leader as one CSP Uduak.

PUNCH Metro had reported that on October 9, a member of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, identified only as Afeez, aka Yellow, led men of the Anti-Cultism Unit and some suspected hoodlums to Apongbon, Lagos Island, to arrest some youths.

It was reported that the youths had witnessed the killing of a man during a fight allegedly initiated by Afeez against his opponents in the area a few weeks earlier.

The residents were said to have assaulted and warned him against creating tension in the area.

Afeez then led policemen to raid the area.

The cops, who allegedly shot continuously, chased 10 youths into the lagoon.

While six people were rescued alive, four of the victims were found dead with bullet wounds.

The mother of one of the victims, Aderemi, said she would not rest until the policemen were made to answer for the death.

She called on the Inspector-General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, and the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Zubairu Muazu, to investigate and prosecute the officers.

The woman noted that on the day of the incident, Adefemi had just returned from work and was playing football with his friends when the police team arrived from Gbagada.

She said the cops announced their arrival with continuous shooting, as they chased the youths into the lagoon.

The bereaved mother claimed that some people were crushed by vehicles as they tried to cross the road.

She said, “When the incident happened, someone came to call me at home. When I got there, the policemen were still at the scene. Six of the 10 youths in the water were rescued; my son was among the four that drowned.

“I went to the Gbagada Police Station to ascertain the circumstances behind the death of my son. The officer that led the team, CSP Uduak, walked me out of his office, saying he had all rights for his action and the Lagos State Commissioner of Police gave him the authority.

“I want to know why the anti-cultism squad took the law into their hands and chased my son into the lagoon. I want the police to produce the officers that came for the raid and Yellow.

“I knew when I gave birth to Adefemi, I’m not supposed to know when he would die. I want people to help me get justice. Where will I start from? I don’t have any family; my son was my family, who will now bury me when I die?”

Adefemi’s mother alleged that the anti-cultism unit demanded N450,000 for the bail of residents arrested during the October 9 raid.

She added that suspects who were unable to raise the money, were arraigned at the Yaba Magistrates' Court on Monday, October 14, 2019.

The court was said to have ordered the remand of the residents in prison.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Bala Elkana, urged her to come to the command with information that would aid police investigation.

He said, "I put a call across to the commandant whether he had an operation at the place of the incident and he said he did not have any operation there. What went viral was that it was the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (that did it), but now that you said it's not SARS, but anti-cultism unit, we will investigate from our end. The mother should step forward with details of the incident and we will investigate it."