

Command launches manhunt for gunmen who killed motorcyclist

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Bernard

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The Lagos State Police Command has launched a manhunt for the fleeing gunmen, who allegedly shot dead a motorcyclist, Bernard James, in the Borokini area of Aga in the Ikorodu Local Government Area of the state.

The suspects, who created panic during the attack, reportedly stole the victim's motorcycle and abandoned him at the scene of the incident.

A picture of the incident, which was made available to our correspondent, showed Bernard's corpse lying in a pool of his own blood on the Borokini Road.

PUNCH Metro gathered that Bernard was riding his motorcycle to a destination in Ikorodu when the gunmen accosted him, but while dispossessing him of his motorcycle, the victim started struggling with them and he was shot in the head.

Bernard was said to have died on the spot and during a visit to the scene of the incident on Saturday, our correspondent saw the victim's blood covered with sand in front of No. 42 Borokini Street.

A resident of the area, who identified herself simply as Abigail, said Benard was shot twice, adding that when the gunmen attacked him around 8.30pm, residents abandoned what they were doing and ran for safety.

Abigail stated, "I was in the kitchen when I heard the first gunshot; shortly after, I heard the second gunshot and when I peeped outside, I saw people running. Later on, some other residents and I came outside, because where the incident happened was a building away from where I live, and we saw the corpse in a pool of blood.

"The men took away Bernard's motorcycle. A lot of people have been speculating on why he was killed, but all I know is that I heard gunshots and when I came outside, I saw the corpse on the ground."

A shop owner in the area, Fola Arowosola, said residents speculated that Bernard was killed by cultists, adding that a few weeks back, suspected cultists invaded the area and shot dead a resident and cut off his hand.

He stated, "I closed early but my neighbours were the ones who informed me about the incident and how the man was killed. The information I gathered from people was that he was killed because of his motorcycle, while others said they suspected that Bernard might be a cultist and that his rivals pursued him to where he was killed.

"A few months back, a suspected cultist was shot dead on this same Borokini Street. I was around that day when motorcyclists were moving in the direction of where the man was killed. I was surprised when I heard that those motorcyclists had killed someone and chopped off his hand and fled with it."

Bernard's elder brother, Christian, condemned the speculation that his brother was a cultist, adding that he had informed their parents of his demise, but the burial arrangement would commence after the lifting of the interstate travel ban.

Christian stated, "My brother was not a cultist; he was a motorcyclist. When he did not return home from work, his family started looking for him and heard that a motorcyclist was killed at Aga. We went there and confirmed that he was the one, who was killed.

"So, we went to the Igbogbo Police Station, where our identities were confirmed and the policemen told us that his corpse had been deposited in the mortuary. I identified his corpse and informed our parents; we are waiting for the interstate lockdown to be lifted so that we can proceed with the burial arrangements."

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Bala Elkana, said after Bernard was killed, his identification card, Automated Teller Machine card and N650 were recovered at the scene of the incident, adding that a manhunt had been launched for the perpetrators of the crime.

Elkana stated, "On May 5, 2020, around 9.15pm, we received information that a man was shot by unknown persons and he was lying down in the Borokini area of Aga, in Ikorodu. Our men were mobilised to the scene of the crime and on getting there, we found a corpse in a pool of his blood.

"He was searched and a Lagos State Government tricycle/bike rider identification card bearing Bernard James, a GTBank ATM card bearing the same name and N650 were found on him. Marks of violence were also observed on the corpse, which was evacuated to the Ikorodu General Hospital mortuary. Investigation is ongoing; we have launched a manhunt for the fleeing suspects."