

# My husband's death has stripped me naked — Widow of suspected #EndSARS protest victim

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•*The late Mutiu*

Mutiu

Basirat Lateef, wife of Mutiu, who was allegedly killed when #EndSARS protest turned violent in Osogbo, Osun State last Saturday, tells BOLA BAMIGBOLA that her husband's death must be investigated

*Where was your late husband from?*

He was an indigene of Ede in Osun State. His parents are also dead.

*How many children did he have?*

He was survived by two children – a boy and a girl. The boy will be seven years old by next January. The girl is about three years old. My husband would have turned 30 by January 11, 2021. He was a welder.

***How did he die?***

I don't really know how it happened but I got a call that my husband was at LAUTECH Teaching Hospital, Osogbo and I argued that it could not be him. I later called a few of his friends to confirm if it was true. The people I called said they would call me back but they did not do that immediately. Then I saw someone who said she thought I was aware of the incident. When I told her I did not know anything, she explained what happened to me.

***What did she tell you?***

She told me my husband was shot dead at Oke Ayepe area in Osogbo but I didn't immediately believe her. I could not just believe someone I saw some minutes earlier could be dead. He was not sick; nothing was wrong with him. She called some people in my presence and they said they were the ones who took my husband's corpse to the palace of the Ataoja of Osogbo. At that point, I could no longer control myself. I told them I was coming to meet them but they said I should not come.

***Why did they take his corpse to the palace?***

His friends were protesting because of his death and they took him to the palace for the king (Oba Jimoh Oyetunji) to see. They later left the place.

***Who shot him and how did it happen?***

I have not been able to figure out how it happened or what actually happened to him. I was not close to the scene of the incident. I was told he was shot dead at Oke Ayepe,

Osogbo by some yet to be identified people on Saturday. It was on Saturday evening that I first received a call. I can't really recall the exact time I was told.

***Before that Saturday, did you have any premonition of danger?***

I didn't feel or notice anything. Even on that day, I was in the Olaiya area to visit my friend at home. I was in high spirits on that day so there was no sign at all that something bad was going to happen.

***Do you know if he had anyone he had serious problems with?***

I can't really say. As far as I know, he was not fighting anybody. He was not a troublemaker.

***What time did your husband leave the house on the day he died?***

I can't say precisely because I left home before him on that day. I went to see a friend around Olaiya area, as I said earlier.

***What do you do for a living?***

I am a trader. I sell yam flour in Osogbo markets.

***Has he been buried?***

He was buried in Ede on Sunday (following day). With his death, I know life would never be the same again. He had plans to take good care of me and the children if his financial situation improved. He was working very hard to earn more money and take better care of us. I want the relevant authorities to properly investigate his death. Life should be sacred but it is sad that some people just kill others without being challenged. His death has stripped me naked. His death must be properly investigated.

## *What are your plans concerning the children left behind by the deceased?*

I never knew he would die young. We had beautiful plans for our children. Now that he is dead, I don't even know where to turn to. I need Nigerians to help in giving my children quality education. I can't do it alone. I am a petty trader.

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