

# Police killed my 20-year-old son 13 months after moving to Lagos –Widow

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Adenike Orojo is the mother of a 20-year-old man, Femi, who was allegedly killed by officers of the Pedro Police Station when they shot at civilians in Somolu, Lagos State on October 21, 2020. She tells TOBI AWORINDE about the pain of losing her son

*How did you find out about the death of your son, Femi?*

I heard about it from his younger brother. He gave someone my number, so a woman called me. So I went to the place where Femi was. It was on October 21.

*Are you also in Lagos?*

Yes, I am. I stay in Ladi-Lak, Somolu, Lagos State.

*What did the woman who called say to you?*

She said the police had shot one of my two sons. I went to the place where he was taken on the same day.

***Did you meet your son close to the police station where he was shot?***

I did not meet the younger one. I could not even go to the police station or anywhere around where he was shot. There were a lot of shootings on that day. Nobody could go to that place. So, I didn't go there.

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I went to the mortuary at National Orthopaedic Hospital, Igbobi that day because I did not see anybody where my son was killed. The shooting lasted for more than one and a half hours on that day. Nobody could go to the road where the Pedro Police Station is. In fact, the gate leading to that street was locked. But one man helped to take my son to the mortuary on the same day.

***How did you move between your house and the hospital, given that there was curfew in Lagos at the time?***

It was the man who took my son to the mortuary that also took me to Popoola Street (Somolu) and I walked to my house from there.

***What was Femi doing in the Pedro area?***

He was not at Pedro. He died on Bolaji Omupo Street. Before I got there, Femi had died.

***Is it true that he was an apprentice?***

Yes, he was an apprentice tailor. Femi had been in Lagos with me for only one year and one month. He became an apprentice when he got to Lagos.

***Where was he before he came to Lagos State?***

He was in Ekiti State learning tailoring before I brought him to Lagos.

***How old was Femi?***

He was 20 years old. He turned 20 on June 20.

***What was he like?***

He was very gentle. He didn't go anywhere beyond the tailoring shop and our house. He didn't even know any other place because he had been in Lagos for just one year. He and his younger brother were always together. The bullet went through his back and came out from his neck.

***Do you want the officer responsible for this to be arrested?***

We don't even know the officer that shot him. Nobody knows who exactly shot him, but people on that street said it was the police that were shooting. Even when I arrived at the scene, for one and a half hours, the police were still shooting.

***What was your reaction when you heard about Femi's death?***

I cried. They took my 20-year-old son from me, so how would I not cry? People even made videos of Femi in a pool of blood, as they carried him. I have the videos.

***Has he been buried?***

The father's family said I should bury him, since he had neither been married nor fathered a child. They said I should not bother to bring his body to the village and that if I see someplace I can bury him, I should do so. So, I buried him on October 24. I have his death certificate.

***Where is Femi's father?***

His father died about 10 years ago.

***What work do you do?***

I work as a sweeper with the Lagos State Waste Management Agency.

***How old is your younger son?***

He is 15 years old and still in school.

***What do you want the government to do for you?***

I want the government to do anything it can but I know that there is nothing it can give that will be as much as my son. I am so unhappy that my boy's life was taken away just like that.