

Family of housemaid murdered by lover seeks justice

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Wale Oyewale, Ibadan

The family of Sariyat Akinola, a 35-year-old housemaid who was allegedly killed by her lover, Fatai Razaq, an okada rider, have called for justice.

The elder brother of the deceased, Muideen, told *PUNCH Metro* that the duo met at Oworonsoki in Lagos about 10 years ago while the victim lived with her aunt.

The young lovers reportedly cohabited in Lagos, but the union, which was not approved by Sariyat's family, yielded no fruits as the woman bore no child.

At the demise of the victim's father in 2015, the family reportedly insisted that Fatai and his family must show up for a formal introduction.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the meeting, however, never held.

When the relationship crumbled two years ago, Sariyat was said to have returned to her family in Ibadan, Oyo State.

After resigning at the filling station where she worked, she became a housemaid of an old couple in Ibadan until on January 31, 2020, when she was discovered to be missing.

On that day, Sariyat was said to have left her employer's home on the excuse that she was going for a church vigil as was her practice.

After fruitless attempts to know her whereabouts, Muideen said the police tracked her call logs to Fatai, saying he was the last person she spoke to before the phone went dead.

He said, "We took N3,000 worth of okada ride and crossed two rivers to get to Fatai's house. His shelter was built with tarpaulin. We called, but he didn't show up. At around 7pm, one young boy brought a phone to his house and said it had been fully charged.

"When the police collected the telephone, they discovered that it belonged to Sariyat. The lady who claimed ownership of the telephone (Fatai's girlfriend) was arrested and detained at the police station. The police returned to Ijoko the second time in search of Fatai. His friend, Alfa Lookman, was arrested and brought to Ibadan. Lookman said Fatai had killed my sister.

"On the third day when Fatai was arrested, he said he would take the police to where she was. At the end of the day, he took them to where he claimed her body was buried in Abeokuta, Ogun State.

“At the moment, the police said the case would be transferred to the Ogun State Police Command at Eleweran, Abeokuta, and plans are underway to exhume the corpse and conduct an autopsy.”

The Oyo State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Oligbemga Fadeyi, said the suspect had been charged to court for murder.