

Family blames death of stabbed cyclist on LASUTH five-hour surgery delay

AFFEEZ HANAFI

1 MORE facts surrounding the death of a cyclist, Dr Afolabi Mabogunje, stabbed multiple times in the neck region by robbers, have emerged.

It was learnt on Saturday that Mabogunje, a 58-year-old information technology consultant, might have survived the attack if he was promptly operated on at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH).

Our correspondent had reported that the deceased, fondly called Mabogs and General, was stabbed by some hoodlums around Shodex area, Anthony, along Ikorodu Road, while he was waiting for his co-cyclists about 5am on Thursday, September 9, 2021.

The assailants, said to be on a motorcycle, robbed him of his phone and left him for dead but he reportedly struggled to ride the bicycle to a nearby bank where a good Samaritan helped him to call his wife who picked him up at the scene.

He was said to have been taken to the Gbagada General Hospital and was later referred to LASUTH where he underwent a surgery. He reportedly went into a coma post-surgery and died on Wednesday.

In an interview with our correspondent on Saturday, the deceased's younger sister, Dr Olusola Oyekunle, said Mabogunje might have survived the injuries but for alleged systemic failure at LASUTH.

Oyekunle, a consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology, explained that her brother struggled to get medical help but his effort was frustrated by delay in receiving proper treatment at the hospital.

She said Mabogunje was stabbed on both sides of the neck, right side of his chest and left arm, adding that on the right side, a gory wound set the internal jugular vein apart from other structures.

She stated, "His wife took him to Gbagada General Hospital at about 5.30am. They sutured the smaller wounds, gave him IV fluids but the hospital did not have a cardiothoracic surgeon on the ground for the neck wound. So he had to be transferred to LASUTH, which had cardiothoracic surgeons. When we got to LASUTH, one of the surgeons was on the ground."

"The surgeon and everyone who would work on him had been alerted. Afolabi (Mabogunje) was put in the emergency room when we got to LASUTH. We needed four pints of blood. We got to the blood bank and they said they didn't have blood. His co-cyclists went to the blood bank to donate blood. They couldn't bleed them because of the ongoing ARD (Association of Resident Doctors) strike."

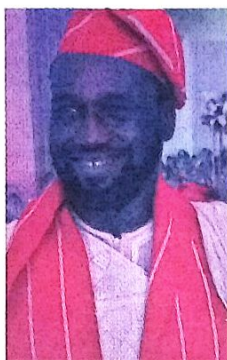
"We had to call the director of the Blood Banking Services in Lagos and we were directed to go to Gbagada Hospital. They had to take Afolabi's blood sample there to cross match. Seyilayo (one of his friends) drove back to Gbagada to get blood and come back. Blood cross matching takes up to 30 minutes to one hour. He was held in morning traffic."

Oyekunle said while they were waiting for the blood,

another blood sample was sent to the laboratory for testing, noting that Mabogunje was not taken to the theatre on time as the blood sample had not been processed.

She added, "We went to the lab to get the results but they had not done the test. We had to wait for them to do the test. He needed to do an X-ray within the hospital but they could not provide an ambulance to move him to the unit. They were asking us to be patient."

"We finally got into the theatre about 1pm and then there was an outage. We waited for about five minutes before power was restored and it went off again. The surgery eventually started about 1.30pm for a man who sustained injuries at 5am and got to LASUTH at 8am. That was the delay that changed the story. If he had got blood within 30 minutes he got to LASUTH



•Mabogunje

perhaps he would have survived.

"There are three types of delay that cause mortality. The phase one delay is if the patient does not make a decision to seek medical help on time. The phase

two delay is if there is no hospital nearby. Afolabi had neither of such delays. But there was a massive phase three delay at LASUTH and that is a systemic problem. He battled the robbers, he fought for his life, we battled the system and systemic failures, everything that could go wrong went wrong."

The bereaved sister said Mabogunje didn't recover from anesthesia an hour after the surgery and was transferred to the intensive care unit of the hospital.

She said the family was assured that he would regain consciousness by the next morning but his condition worsened until he gave up on Wednesday.

Oyekunle lamented that her brother's death dealt a huge blow to the family, especially their aged parents.

She added, "My father is 88 and my mother is 82. Both of them are grieving. My father is distraught and distressed. He was the one who handled everything about them. He was in charge of everything about them. We thank God for the life he led, for finding and fulfilling his purpose in life, for being a big brother and father to many more than his biological children and siblings."

Mabogunje's friend and co-cyclist, Seyilayo Ojo, also decried bureaucracy in the handling of the case, noting that he and two others volunteered to donate blood but their request was turned down due to the ongoing strike by resident doctors.

He said, "We got to LASUTH around 8am but the surgery didn't happen until about 1pm. He was stable and we were all joking. He narrated the incident to us and advised us to learn to memorise key phone numbers. The reason for the delay was not money or manpower. It was bureaucracy and a challenge of the system."

"I observed that since this man had lost a lot of blood, they would need blood donation. I called his wife who is a medical director at a hospital in the state. She directed me to where I could donate the blood. Two other persons and I walked into the place to be screened for blood donation. We were told that we could not donate blood because resident doctors are on strike. I couldn't reconcile it because it is phlebotomists who collect blood not resident doctors."

"We got requisition to collect blood for the surgery at a blood bank in Ayinke House but we were told to go back to Gbagada Hospital to get the blood. I was caught up in traffic. It took me about two hours to and fro Gbagada. He went for the surgery around 1pm in good health. He was very fit and one of the doctors at LASUTH confirmed it."

Two killed, one abducted by suspected herdsmen in Benue

JOHN CHARLES

2 TWO people were reportedly killed and one other abducted by suspected herdsmen at Yelwata community in the Guma Local Government Area of Benue State on Saturday.

Though details of the attack were sketchy as of press time, a source claimed that the attack was unprovoked.

A resident, James Igbedu, told Sunday PUNCH that his father-in-law was kidnapped in the attack. Igbedu said, "Herdsmen

The LASUTH Chief Medical Director, Adetokunbo Fabamwo, however, said he was not aware of any delay in Mabogunje's treatment.

He said, "I don't have such information. The contrary is what I have. He was operated on in record time by experts when he was brought in. There were four professors in the theatre where he was operated on. The man was stabbed in several places and he had bled a lot. We have 10 functional ambulances so there is no issue of such. He was operated on within two hours during a period when resident doctors were on strike. His wife was one of us so all hands were on deck."

Police investigation stalled

Ojo, a lawyer, said Mabogunje installed Strava—a cycling tracking device—on his phone and released a beacon on a cyclists' WhatsApp group platform they both belonged so he could be monitored any time he went cycling.

He said a member of the group traced Mabogunje's stolen phone to somewhere in Mushin with the aid of the beacon, adding that he reported the incident at the Ilupeju Police Station.

"I have given the Divisional Crime Officer at the station all the information I have. He said they are investigating," he added.

A source, however, told our correspondent that the police had yet to make headway on the investigation.

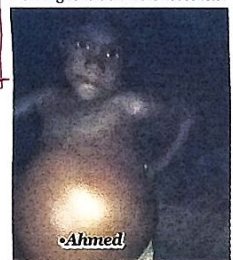
The source said, "The beacon is no longer active because his phone has gone off. A policeman told the family that their tracking device was down and they have not ascertained the location of the phone."

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, CSP Adekunle Ajisebutu, could not be reached for comments on the case as calls to his line rang out.

Family seeks help for sick 13-year-old boy

AFFEEZ HANAFI

3 THE health of a 13-year-old native of Omuo, Ekiti State, Tunde Ahmed, has thrown his poor family into distress, worsening the living condition in the household.



•Ahmed

It was learnt that Ahmed's stomach began to swell up seven years ago and he was taken to a hospital for treatment.

When there was no improvement, he was said to have been taken to another hospital where he underwent a surgery.

His elder brother, Abdul, who spoke on behalf of the family, told Sunday PUNCH that Ahmed relapsed after some time.

Abdul said Ahmed needed to undergo another surgery but their mother did not have money, appealing to members of the public to save his brother's life.

He said, "He always complained of stomach pain when he was younger. That was about seven years ago. There was a small lump in his stomach

then. We took him to a hospital and he was treated. When there was no improvement, we took him to another hospital where he underwent a surgery."

"After some time, his stomach keeps getting big again. We were told that he needs to undergo another surgery. Our father is dead; it is only our mum who struggles to cater for him."

"He stopped going to school in 2019 when he was in JSS 1. His friends laughed at him because of his condition. We are calling on Nigerians to assist us so that he can be treated."

Donations for Ahmed treatment can be sent to his relation's GTB account with the name, Ahmed Iyabo Abike and account number: 0457982530.

Police to prosecute Lagos civil servant for attempted suicide

DEJI LAMBO

4 A staff member of the Lagos State Development and Property Corporation, Akinlolu Ajayi, has been rescued from committing suicide on the Third Mainland Bridge.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, CSP Adekunle Ajisebutu, said in a statement on Saturday that Ajayi was trying to jump into the lagoon when policemen on a routine patrol in the area rescued him.

He stated that Ajayi was taken into custody for further investigation

and prosecution, adding that his family members had been contacted.

Ajisebutu said, "The incident happened around 9.25am on September 15, 2021, when one Akinlolu Ajayi, 54, a staff member of LSDPC Town Planning, Ilupeju, resident at No.1, Owodunni Street, Oworonsoki, was seen on the Third Mainland Bridge trying to jump into the lagoon at the UNILAG waterfront."

"The anti-crime patrol team of the Bariga Police Division on a routine patrol of the area immediately rescued the man and

took him into protective custody. The Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, having directed that the man's family should be contacted for necessary action, appeals to members of the public not to take their own lives no matter the challenges they are currently facing. The Police boss further warns that such a condemnable act is not only morally wrong but is also criminal. The suspect has been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department for investigation and subsequent prosecution."

Bauchi-based Cameroonian pastor, wife killed in auto crash

ARMSTRONG BAKAM

5 A Cameroonian living in Bauchi State Pastor Kenneth Azifo, his wife Sandra, and their colleague, Badamasi, have died in an accident.

The victims were reportedly travelling to Azare, headquarters of Katagum Local Government Area of the state for an official assignment when the incident happened on Friday.

A source confirmed the incident to our correspondent, saying that the deceased pastor was from Cameroon while his wife hailed Idoma, Benue State.

She said, "I have known the couple for a long time. We used to attend the same church before they later left. I haven't seen them for a long time until yesterday (Friday) a few hours before their unfortunate death."

"I saw them at the Central Market and I even hugged his wife tightly. We greeted and chatted for a short while and they told me that they were going to Azare for promo

activation for their company."

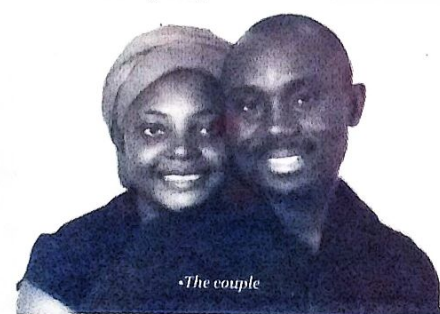
"They went on Thursday and came back that same day. They were going back on Friday to continue with the promo activation when the accident occurred."

It was about four hours after I saw them on Friday that a colleague called to tell me that they died."

The Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corp, Bauchi State, Yusuf Abdullahi, confirmed the crash to our correspondent.

He said the crash occurred about 2.30pm on Friday along Darazo-Kari Road, adding that it was caused by wrongful overtaking.

He said, "The driver overtook a vehicle. After he went returned to his lane, he lost control, veered off the road and crashed. The victims were conveyed to General Hospital Darazo for medical attention. The sum of N21,000 was recovered from the scene of the crash."



•The couple

Kidnap suspects resisting arrest stab two Bayelsa cops, vigilante

DANIELS IGONI

6 TWO suspected kidnappers have stabbed two policemen and a vigilante in Bayelsa State.

It was gathered that the incident happened in Adagbabiri community in the Sagbama Local Government Area of the state on Friday.

The hoodlums were said to have assaulted the two cops and the community youth while trying to resist arrest.

They allegedly wanted to

attacked Yelwata again, kidnapped my father-in-law, Mr Iorver Igbo and killed two others."

Efforts to get the chairman of the local government, Caleb Aba, to comment on the attack, failed as his mobile was switched off.

Meanwhile, when contacted, spokesperson for the police in the state, DSP Catherine Anene, said she had yet to be briefed about any attack in the area. Yelwata, a border community between Nasarawa and Benue, had in recent times witnessed attacks by herdsmen.

abduct a target when the police accosted them.

The police spokesman in the state, Mr Asinim Butswat, confirmed the arrest in a statement on Saturday.

He said, "The suspects stabbed two police officers and one community youth, while resisting arrest. The injured officers are responding to treatment at the Sagbama General Hospital. The suspects are undergoing interrogation, and investigation is ongoing."