

Ogun pupil slumps, dies after tussle with classmate over school bag

Afeez Hanafi

A 17-year-old Senior Secondary School 2 pupil of a secondary school in the Itokin area of Ogun State, Habeeb Adeosun, has lost his life after allegedly engaging in a fight with his classmate and friend identified only as Ayo.

It was learnt that Adeosun slumped during an altercation with Ayo, 16, while they were in the class on Monday and died a few hours later in a hospital where he was rushed to.

City Round gathered two accounts on the cause of the disagreement between the duo. While the deceased's family said Ayo confronted Adeosun for stepping on the toes of his (Ayo's) girlfriend inside the class, Ayo said they were struggling over a bag.

The teenager reportedly ran away after Adeosun slumped but was later arrested on Tuesday by a team from the Agbado Division led by the Divisional Police Officer, CSP Kuranga Yero.

A relative of Ayo identified simply as Ewenje said the deceased's parents had gone to work on Monday afternoon when the incident occurred.

He said, "We were at home when someone rushed to tell us that a pupil punched Habeeb (Adeosun) on the chest and he slumped. We learnt he had been rushed to a hospital. We



reported at the police station and some policemen followed us to the school. Some pupils who witnessed the incident said the boy confronted Habeeb for stepping on his (Ayo's) girlfriend. He ran away when he saw that Habeeb could not stand up."

Ewenje said some angry youths mobilised to the school the following day blaming the authorities for allegedly allowing

Ayo to escape. He said it took the police intervention to restore normalcy to the area.

He said, "People were running helter-skelter. The

school was eventually shut. The family didn't know about the attack. We have accepted what happened in good faith and buried him according to Islamic rites. Police said they wanted to carry out an investigation but we insisted we could not delay his burial.

"We are not interested in the case. Some pupils claimed that he hit Habeeb with a charmed ring. If he actually did, God will reward him accordingly. Habeeb was 17 years old and he just completed his Quranic study."

But Ayo, who is police custody, said Habeeb was dragging his bag with him when a fight broke out. He claimed that the deceased first hit him on the chest and he returned the punch, which felled Habeeb.

He said, "I am 16-year-old. I live at Abule Ijoko and attend Itokin Community High School. Habeeb and I were both in the same class. That day, he came to my seat and took my bag. I asked him to return my bag but he refused. I thought he was playing with me. As we were dragging the bag with each other, he hit me on the chest. I returned mine and he fell.

"I thought he was joking. Our classmates poured water on him and rushed to call teachers. The attendants at the school clinic came to check him but he didn't respond. They then rushed him to the hospital.

"I didn't hit him with any ring. We were friends and we used to play with each other. I didn't run away. It was our teachers who asked someone to take me away because some

thugs were threatening to kill me. I was crying when I learnt he had died."

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Abimbola Oyeyemi, confirmed the incident, adding that investigation had commenced.

A source at the state police command told City Round that the case had been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department. Elewera, for further investigation.

The source said, "The suspect and the victim were classmates. They had a disagreement in the classroom which resulted in a fight. He (Ayo) reportedly hit the boy with a ring said to be diabolical. The victim slumped and died afterwards. Investigation is ongoing."

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