

# Air Force officials on family N200,000

Deji Lambo

THE family of an artist, Ifeanyi Kaku, has been thrown into mourning after personnel of the Nigerian Air Force, accused of driving on the Bus Rapid Transit lane in Lagos State, crushed him.

PUNCH Metro gathered that Ifeanyi was on his way to work in the Ikeja area of the state when the incident happened.

His remains were said to have been deposited in a mortuary at the Nigerian Air Force base in Lagos.

Describing Ifeanyi's death as a big loss to his family, an actor, Segun Adefila, said he was killed two months after his mother's death.

He noted that the 31-year-old left behind six siblings and an aged father.

In a post on his Facebook page, Adefila wrote, "Ifeanyi was a young Nigerian artist who was diminutive in stature but gigantic in strides. His life was one huge struggle for survival without a thought for crime but through a dirt of hard work."

"On October 20, 2021, Ifeanyi's life was cut short on the expressway of Ikorodu Road. He lived with his aged father and six siblings and left them at home on that fateful day for a job he just secured."

"He was on his way to a school (Temple Schools, Ikeja) where he was helping to teach pupils cultural dance and music. A Nigerian Air Force vehicle travelling on a BRT lane knocked him down. Ifeanyi's body is still in the Nigerian Air Force base mortuary."



• Chief of Air Staff, Isiaka Amao

"Ifeanyi's mum is also still in another mortuary. His bereaved family who are definitely inconsolable at the moment also stands the risk of not getting any

• Ifeanyi

form of tangible compensation from those whose vehicle knocked him down."

Adefila, who spoke to PUNCH Metro, clarified that the deceased

The news Agency of Nigeria reports that Magistrate N100,000.

Abeokuta.

2006.

# BRT lane kill Lagos artist, offer

• We only tried to save his life, says military

was hit between the Olanikoro and Anthony ends of the Ikorodu Road.

While insisting that the Air Force was responsible for the accident, he said some companies in the vicinity could confirm his claim with their CCTV footage.

"According to them, he (Ifeanyi) had got to the BRT lane when they (NAF vehicle) hit him. He fell on the expressway and a commercial bus just finished the job they started. What kept everybody quiet was that they acted immediately by picking him up," he added.

Adefila said the military later offered the family a compensation of N200,000.

"But why would they agree to take him to their place or even agree to pay anything if they did not hit him?" he queried.

A spokesperson for the Nigerian Air Force, Edward Gbikwa,

refuted Adefila's claim that the military vehicle crushed the victim, saying the 31-year-old was knocked down by a commercial bus.

He said, "An Air Force vehicle did not kill or crush the victim. From what I learnt, the victim was trying to cross the road and an Air Force vehicle that was approaching saw him, and the vehicle suddenly stopped."

"The victim, who was apparently in shock at how the vehicle stopped, tried to go back to where he was coming from and I understood that a Danfo vehicle crushed him. As an organisation with responsible personnel, the officers, who were in that vehicle, felt it would be out of place to see such an incident and a victim in that particular state and ignore."

"So, they decided on their own that they needed to assist

and convey him to an Air Force hospital and that was how the victim ended up in our own hospital. Unfortunately, it was in that process that he gave up."

"When the victim passed on, the family asked the Air Force for assistance to bury him and I understood that they (family) came up with a sum of N500,000. The Air Force leadership in the base volunteered to contribute more than half of what they asked."

He insisted that the Air Force personnel did not ply the BRT corridor or break any law.

Ifeanyi's brother, Ikachukwu, denied that the family sought the assistance of the military.

He said, "They were the ones that first hit him and the impact of hitting my brother pushed him on the expressway where the bus killed him. Even the person speaking to us on behalf of the Air Force said their vehicle brushed him on the BRT lane."

"They first rushed him to a nearby hospital where he was rejected before they took him to the military hospital where he died on that same day. We are not seeking assistance; I have the message they sent us asking for a meeting and to know what we want them to do for us."

The Head, Corporate Communications, Primero Transport Services Limited,

illegal use of the BRT lane.

He said, "We have done a lot of advocacy and have even visited the Air Force base in Ikeja to tell them of the need to help us appeal to

military personnel, particularly air force personnel not to use the BRT lane. The BRT lane is reserved for BRT buses and not for any other vehicle."

The state Police Public Relations Officer, CSP Adekunle Ajisebutu, had yet to respond to calls made to his phone as of the time this report was filed.

## Father mourns as assailants stab, strangle undergraduate only son in Nasarawa

Collins Sunday, Lafia

A 34-year-old student of the Nasarawa State University, Emmanuel Akko, has been killed by hoodlums who invaded the Nasarawa Housing Estate on the Makurdi-Jos Road, Lafia, Nasarawa State.

Our correspondent, who visited the area on Wednesday, gathered that the assailants, who came in their numbers around 10pm on Saturday, gained access into the estate through the main gate.

A resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the deceased, who was not living on the estate, was asked by his elder sister to go to her house to do some chores.

He said, "We heard that his elder sister, who travelled to Abuja, called him to go to her flat and help her start the generator so that the items in the freezer would be preserved, as there was no electricity."

"So, after starting the generator,



Nasarawa State University

he left it for about three hours and noticed that the items in the freezer were already frozen. Then, he decided to go out and put off the generator so he could go to bed. That was when he was attacked by the assailants, who stabbed him in the neck before strangling him."

The victim's father, Mr. Dauda Akaki-Odedoh, while fighting back tears, said he learnt from people on the estate that his son received a "strange call", adding that he was talking to the caller when he was attacked.

"I can't imagine how my only son

was stabbed and strangled to death by assailants on an estate where there are security operatives. My son's death has put me in trauma," he headed.

Our correspondent learnt that the deceased, who was studying Forensic Psychology, was the brother-in-law of the Director of Finance and Account in the state Ministry of Youths and Sports Development, Mr. Ago Ismail-Ewa.

Efforts to reach the state Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Ramalan Nansel, were abortive as of the time of filing this report.

# Hits free abducted NYSC members, ransom payment



Tsafe Local Government Area of Zamfara State. They were supposed to board another bus from Sokoto to their destination in Kebbi State.

Zamfara, the bandits reached out to the victims' families, demanding N2m ransom for each of them.

Jorlani's elder sister, Judith Ramon, who spoke briefly to

The Police Public Relations Officer in Zamfara State, SP Muhammed Sheu, did not pick up our correspondent's calls and had yet to reply to a text message sent to his line on the victims'

Aside from the two corps members, others released are a student of the Uthman Dan Fodio University, Sokoto, Sando Kondo; two brothers, Muhammad Saminu and Muhammad Safiam, and one Bala Tukur.

## Suicidal artisan climbs Lagos telecoms mast, calls residents for 'fellowship'