

# Two arrested for killing Lagos socialite over chieftaincy tussle

Kayode Oyero

**T**wo suspects have been arrested and charged with the murder of a Lagos-based socialite and contender for the Badore chieftaincy stool, Chief Rasak Jikoji.

It was gathered that the suspects, Sulaimon Ogunlana, 23, and Abiodun Taiwo, 22; who allegedly belonged to the Ewe confraternity, were arrested by the operatives of the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department, Panti, Yaba, Lagos.

The two suspects also reportedly indicted one Chief Waliu Adeniran, who was a co-contestant with the late Jikoji in a struggle for the chieftaincy stool of Badore, in the Eti-Osa Local Government Area of the state.

Magistrate Oluwatoyin Oghre of the High Court of Lagos State had since issued a warrant of arrest on Adeniran, who is now at large. Adeniran and the two suspects were charged with conspiracy and murder.

Jikoji, 60, was reportedly assassinated on April 25, 2021 after his family nominated him as the successor to the late traditional ruler in the community, who died in June 2020.

However, some community elders reportedly backed Adeniran, whose name was forwarded to the local government secretariat.

The dispute was later taken to court.

Justice E.I. Alakija of the Lagos State High Court on March 22, 2021 subsequently ordered that the parties should maintain the status quo while the substantive suit was adjourned till May 2021.

The state Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, while confirming Jikoji's murder, had said the case had been transferred to the SCIID.

He had said, "The two persons who assassinated him were in a tricycle. They accosted him while in the vehicle and fired at him in the chest with what appeared to be an English pistol. He ran out, but they went after him and used a stone to break his head to ensure he died.

"The driver said before they killed him, they said, 'so you want to be baale (traditional ruler), it is only someone who is alive that can become baale'. It was not a case of robbery. He was a direct target. We are working round the clock and closing in on his killers."

City Round learnt that detectives at the SCIID eventually arrested Ogunlana and Taiwo and arraigned them for conspiracy and murder.

The charges read in part, "That you Sulaimon Ogunlana and Abiodun Taiwo and others at large, on 25th day of April 2021 on Badore Road, Langbasa area of Lagos State, in the Lagos Magisterial District did cause the death of one Rasak Jikoji, thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 223 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015."

Both Ogunlana and Taiwo were remanded in the Kirikiri Prison while the court in a warrant of arrest dated September 22, 2021, and sighted by our correspondent, mandated the state Commissioner of Police to produce Adeniran and others

at large at the next adjourned date on December 7, 2021.

The widow of the deceased, Olajumoke Jikoji, told City Round that the family was afraid of going to Badore since the brutal murder of her husband.

She alleged that Adeniran and some other persons in the community had been threatening her husband before his murder.

She said, "They have threatened him repeatedly and my husband wrote several petitions to Zone 2, Abuja and other police stations against Mr Adeniran even up to two weeks before they succeeded in killing him."

Olajumoke alleged that Adeniran paraded himself as the Baale of Badore shortly after the killing of her husband.

"We appeal to the legal authorities to come to our aid and make sure that justice is served," she added.

## Six die, eight injured in Ogun, Abuja auto crashes

Solomon Odeniyi and Daud Olatunji

**A**t least six persons were confirmed dead while eight others sustained injuries in six separate accidents that occurred in Ogun State and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, on Friday.

While five persons died in the auto crash at Arebi village, along Ago Iwoye-Ibadan Road, Ogun State, one person was killed in one of the five accidents recorded in Abuja.

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps in Ogun State, Ahmed Umar, said the Ogun accident involved one Opel Safira car and a Mazda bus, adding that it was caused by speeding and wrongful overtaking by the bus driver.

He said, "A total of five deaths were recorded from the crash; all the deceased were in the Mazda bus. The injured victims were taken to the General Hospital, Ijebu-Ode while

apprehended at the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport, Kano State, with 1,144 Automated Teller Machine cards.

The suspects - Abdullahi Usman, Musa Abubakar and Abdulwahid Auwalu - were arrested by operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Kano Zonal Command, for allegedly attempting to smuggle the ATM cards out of the country.

The spokesperson for the EFCC, Wilson Uwujaren, in a statement on Friday said the suspects were arrested between November 24 and December 1, 2021.

He said, "Upon their arrest, it was discovered that Musa Abubakar who was on his way to Dubai, UAE, had concealed 714 ATM cards while Abdullahi Usman who was heading for Saudi Arabia had 298 ATM cards in his possession.

"Abdulwahid Auwalu, on the other hand, was arrested with 132 ATM cards while trying to board an Ethiopian Airlines flight to Istanbul, Turkey."

He said the suspects would be charged after investigations had been concluded.

the remains of the deceased were deposited at the same hospital mortuary."

Of the five accidents that occurred in the Abuja Municipal Area Council, a lone crash claimed the life of a yet-to-be identified driver along the Shehu Yar'Adua Expressway.

The driver, according to an eyewitness, was speeding and lost control of the vehicle, veering off the road before ramming into a tree. He was said to have died while he was being taken to the hospital.

The spokesperson for the Directorate, Road Traffic Services, Kalu Emetu, confirmed the incident.

Also, at City Gate by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission office in Abuja, two vehicles, including a police patrol van were involved in an auto accident.

The police van was said to have run into the vehicle.

However, the driver of one of the other vehicles reportedly sustained serious injuries and was rushed to an undisclosed hospital in the area.

Another accident occurred on the National Stadium Bridge where two vehicles were damaged. No death or injury was recorded in the accident.

In Gwarinpa, a hit-and-run driver knocked down a man, who was rushed to Life Camp General Hospital. It was learnt that the yet-to-be-identified victim was seriously injured.

Also, in Gwarinpa, a road crash involving two Golf cars was recorded.

The Federal Road Safety Corps Sector Commander in the FCT, Samuel Ochi, confirmed the crashes and attributed them to speeding.



An accident scene in Abuja