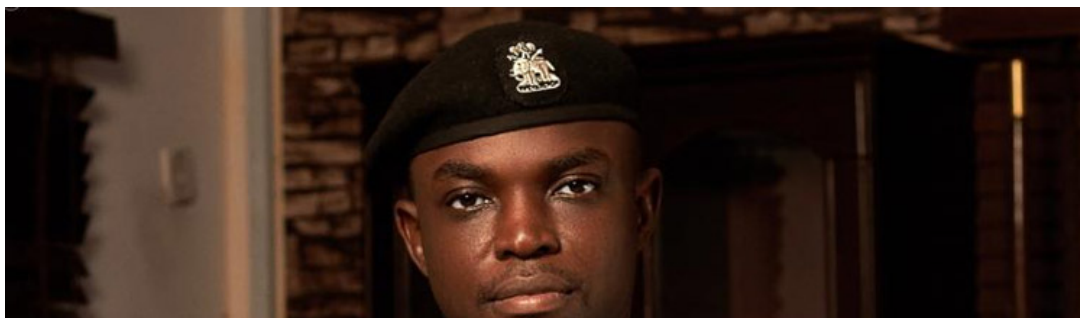


# Pastor laments as mob beat mentally ill son to death

31st May 2023



Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Benjamin Hundeyin

By Toni Ufoh

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A clergyman, Femi Kolade, is currently lamenting the death of his 27-year-old son, Sunday, in the hands of an irate mob in Lagos.

Sunday, who was said to have a history of mental illness, was said to have been taken for a thief and was beaten to death last week Wednesday on Ajibola Street, Alakara, in the Ayobo area of the Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos.

Kolade, in an interview with *PUNCH Metro* on Tuesday, said his son visited a friend in the area but because of his mental illness, residents of the street who thought he was a thief descended on him.

He said, “My son had mental issues and we have been trying to manage his health all these years. I was called by a friend, Taiwo, who lives in my street here in the Jibola area of Ayobo saying that he just saw the corpse of my son.

“On getting there, I saw people shouting that he is a thief and I saw my son in a pool of blood. This boy had mental issues. He cannot steal. All he likes doing is going to church.

“We reported the matter at Ayobo Police Station that day after we had taken him to the hospital and as I am talking to you, I just came back from Panti where the case has been transferred to. Policemen have arrested some of the people who beat my son to death.

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The deceased’s mother, Felicia, corroborated her husband’s position while lamenting the killing of her only son.

She said, “People called us to tell us that Sunday was being beaten in the Jibola area in Ayobo but before my husband could get there, he was already dead. My son had mental issues and we have taken him to many places. How he went to that place still baffles me.

“I was told that on the day he was stabbed, he went into a compound and the people in that compound thought he was a thief. They raised the alarm and unfortunately, somebody stabbed him. I want the police to do their job. We reported the case at Ayobo Police Station.

“How will they stab someone to death saying he is a thief? At least, they should have handed him over to the police if they felt that he stole. Meanwhile, my son was not a thief. I want the police to arrest my son’s killers.

When contacted, the State Police Public Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin, confirmed the incident.

“The matter was reported and the suspects have been arrested. The police investigation is still ongoing,” he said.