

# How policeman accused of killing Lagos woman over N2,000 bribe absconded after bail – Investigation

Uthman Salami  
and Okikiola Afolabi

**DISMISSED** police corporal Aremu Musiliu, accused of killing a nursing mother, Comfort Udoh, has reportedly disappeared after secretly securing bail from the Lagos High Court, PUNCH Metro investigation reveals.

Musiliu, along with five other policemen, had allegedly flagged down a tricycle along Isheri area in 2015, driven by Comfort's husband, Godwin Udoh.

The vehicle reportedly carried Comfort and her four children, including a four-month-old baby, as they returned home from a church programme.

Despite the family explaining they were not commuters but merely heading home after worship, Musiliu allegedly insisted on a N2,000 bribe before allowing them to proceed.

When one of the policemen

at the checkpoint ordered the family to leave, Musiliu reportedly aimed and fired his weapon at the tricycle.

The shot struck Comfort in the head, killing her instantly, while other bullets hit her husband in the jaw and right shoulder.

As their children screamed in terror, the officers reportedly fled the scene.

Musiliu was dismissed from the police force on September 17, 2015, and later granted bail in 2017 without the knowledge of the grieving family.

Court records reveal that Justice O.A. Taiwo of Court 26, Ikeja High Court, granted Musiliu bail at N1m with two sureties.

In the court ruling, Justice Taiwo stated, "Section 115(1) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law 2011 empowers the court to grant bail to a defendant charged with an offence punishable by death.

Thus, the court has discretion whether or not



•The deceased's family

to grant bail to a defendant charged with a capital offence. It is the duty of the applicant to show by affidavit special circumstances which will warrant the court to exercise its discretion in favour of the applicant."

Since being granted bail, PUNCH Metro learnt that Musiliu's whereabouts have

remained unknown despite multiple court sittings and attempts to arrest his sureties.

Speaking to PUNCH Metro on Saturday, Godwin Udoh expressed his frustration and disbelief.

"I was surprised when I didn't see him (the policeman) in court before discovering later that he had been granted

bail. Nobody expected he would be granted bail.

"Every time they asked the prison to present him in court, they would give excuses like a lack of fuel to transport him. That's how I began investigating what was going on," Udoh recounted.

Udoh explained that his inquiries led him to the realisation that Musiliu had indeed been released.

"The court handling the case is now at the TBS High Court, but they never brought him there for arraignment. The only time he was ever arraigned was at the Ebute Metta Magistrate Court in 2015 when the incident happened," he said.

The judge, Hon. Justice Akintoye, even wrote letters to all the prisons in Lagos State, but they refused to produce this man in court. They even issued an arrest warrant for the two sureties.

"The entire court didn't believe he had been released on bail until I personally went

to find out. That's when I confirmed that Hon. Justice Taiwo's court at Ikeja had granted him bail. Now, the

man has disappeared. We have never heard anything about him," Udoh lamented.

The case is still ongoing,

with the next court session scheduled for April 9. However, Udoh remains uncertain whether justice will be served.

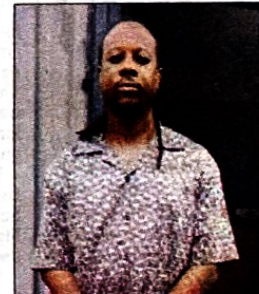
## NDLEA arrests bizmen, destroys 13,198 kilograms of skunk in Edo forests

Solomon Odeniyi

**OPERATIVES** of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency have apprehended a Lekki-based businessman, Arokodare Damil Ebenezer, the proprietor of Damillionz Takeout, in connection with the shipment of 60 parcels of Loud, a potent strain of cannabis, from the United States to Nigeria.

The 43-year-old was arrested at Bay Lounge on Admiralty Way, Lekki, Lagos, on Monday, while expecting the delivery of his latest drug consignment.

A statement on Sunday by the agency's spokesman, Femi Babafemi said his arrest followed the seizure of his cargo—seven large cartons—by the NDLEA operatives at a logistics company in Lagos on March 12.



•One of the suspects

"His arrest followed the seizure of his cargo that arrived in Nigeria in seven big cartons at a logistics company in Lagos on March 12 by the NDLEA operatives of the Directorate of Operations and General Investigation.

"After his arrest, he was taken

to his Lekki home for a search during which 94 grams of the same psychoactive substance, cannabis crusher and other drug paraphernalia were recovered. This brings the total weight of the drug seized from him to 32.24 kilograms.

In his statement, he claimed he started the illicit drug business in 2017," he said.

Babafemi said in another operation, the NDLEA officers thwarted an attempt by another businessman, Omoruyi Terry, to export 1,400 pills of Tramadol 225mg, weighing 800 grams, to Italy.

He said Omoruyi was intercepted at the screening point of Terminal 2 at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, while boarding a Qatar Airways flight.

"Investigations revealed that he