

Stray bullet kills Lagos yam vendor

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File photo of stray bullet coming out of a pistol

| By Dayo Oyewo, Uthman Salami

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There was pandemonium on Wednesday after a stray bullet killed a yet-to-be-identified male yam vendor at United Estate in the Sangotedo area of Lagos State.

PUNCH Metro learnt on Thursday that the incident happened during a suspected cult attack in the community.

Our correspondent gathered that a customer had approached the vendor at about 9 pm to patronise him.

However, some gunmen who were said to have been trailing the customer stormed the spot and started shooting sporadically.

A police source who spoke to our correspondent on Thursday on the condition of anonymity said the shot aimed at the customer strayed and hit the deceased vendor.

“We got a report that a man selling yams was shot by some men believed to be cultists. Although an investigation is still ongoing, their target was waiting to buy yams and they attempted to shoot him. The bullet hit the yam seller. The man died instantly on the spot,” the source disclosed.

Another source familiar with the incident said some other persons were hit by bullets during the shooting.

The incident was also said to have caused panic in the community.

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“The spot where the incident happened is just some metres away from the entrance of the estate. So, the vicinity was deserted for a while after the news about what happened spread across the area. We also learnt that the man has been buried according to Islamic rites,” the source added.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin, could not be reached as calls made to his telephone were not responded to. A text message sent to him had yet to be replied to as of the time of filing this report.

PUNCH Metro reported that a 26-year-old artisan, identified simply as Timehin, was killed during cult initiation rites in the Awoyaya area of Eti-Osa Local Government Area, Lagos State.

The incident occurred on July 18, when suspected members of a rival cult group ambushed the initiation ground.

It was gathered that Timehin was taken into a nearby bush late in the evening to be initiated as a recruit into the cult group.

However, shortly after the rites began, some assailants believed to be members of a rival cult stormed the scene and began shooting.

A relative of the deceased said this caused the initiators of the rites to scamper for safety, while Timehin who could not was shorvdead on the spot.

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