

Missing Lagos hotel worker feared killed by fleeing murder suspect

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Olawale. Photo: Family

| By Johnson Idowu

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A hotel worker, Noimot Olawale, who went missing in the Ikorodu area of Lagos State, is now feared killed after investigations revealed she had been with an Islamic cleric who has since fled after his neighbour allegedly discovered he had killed and butchered a lady in the same area.

PUNCH Metro learnt this in an exclusive interview with Noimot's brother, Ibrahim Olawale, on Monday.

Recall that a video had gone viral about a week ago showing residents of an area in Ikorodu narrating that an Islamic cleric allegedly mutilated a lady and had since fled after he was discovered by neighbours.

Multiple videos on social media showed a room with suspected blood stains, while a polythene bag was seen with suspected dismembered human parts.

Narrating the circumstances behind his sister's disappearance and the suspicion, Olawale noted his sister had gone missing since July 19, after she did not return from work.

Olawale narrated that after Noimot became unreachable, the family reported the matter to the police and visited her house, where they met her friend with whom she worked in the hotel.

He said the friend explained that Noimot had left her at their workplace without disclosing where she was going, and the following day, someone had called her with Noimot's phone, stating that she had been in an accident and she was at the Ikeja General Hospital.

Ibrahim said they visited the hospital and were informed they had no accident patient or anyone with her identity, adding that the hospital also allowed them to check the morgue, but they couldn't find Noimot dead or alive.

He added that they asked her friend to take them to their workplace, and when they got there, the narrative of Noimot's friend was different from what the hotel manager said.

Ibrahim said, "Before we got to the hotel, her friend said she wanted to tell us something, and that her claim that she and Noimot worked as receptionists at the hotel was false, and that they only worked as hook-up girls (commercial sex workers).

"When we got to the hotel, what the manager told us was different from what her friend told us about the events that happened the day they both went to work.

"Her friend said that she slept at the hotel after Noimot left, while the manager said she did not sleep at the hotel on that day."

He continued that the police arrested the hotel manager and Noimot's friend and they returned home, but when they returned to the station, the attitude of the officers at the Divisional Police Station prompted them to write a petition to the State Criminal Investigation Department, and the matter was transferred there.

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He narrated that the family, following advice by the police, tracked Noimot's phone and discovered that her phone was last seen in Ofin in the Ikorodu area of the state.

He said the family was drawn back to the incident that had gone viral about a lady being butchered in the same area within the same period that his sister had gone missing.

Ibrahim said the family visited the area and learnt that the matter was reported to the Igbogbo Police Division, and when they visited the station, they were referred back to the SCID in the Panti area of the state.

He said the family, in a bid to be certain if Noimot was the victim of the suspected killing by the Islamic cleric, requested the cleric's number in the area, and when they returned to the SCID, they discovered from the manager's contact list that he had been communicating with the Islamic cleric and that he had the three phone numbers of the cleric saved on his phone.

Ibrahim added, "When we got the Alfa's numbers, we went back to the section that was handling the case, and to our surprise, when they checked the manager's phone, two of the three numbers were saved on his phone, and we discovered that they had been communicating.

"They brought the manager out and questioned him, and he said he knew the Alfa, that he was his area brother. The manager confessed that the Alfa came to their hotel on the day my sister went missing and said he liked my sister, and he hooked them up and left.

"The annoying thing is that during the time we were going there, the manager and my sister's friend did not mention that she went out with an Alfa. Everything the manager and Noimot's friend have been saying was contradictory and inconsistent."

He noted that while the cleric had been on the run, the family had yet to confirm if their sister was his victim.

He urged the police to unravel the circumstances behind the whereabouts of Noimot and ensure that justice is served.

When contacted for a reaction on Monday, the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin, confirmed that the hotel manager had been arrested.

Hundeyin noted that while another suspect was still at large, an investigation had commenced into the matter.

“Investigation is ongoing at the SCID. The hotel manager is in custody, assisting with investigations, while another suspect is still at large,” the PPRO stated.