

# Robbers posing as passengers kill Lagos tricycle rider

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Governor's Road, Ikotun. Photo: Dayo Oyewo

| By Dayo Oyewo

Panic gripped residents of the Ikotun area of Lagos State on Thursday, after armed robbers killed a commercial tricycle rider identified simply as Festus.

*PUNCH Metro* learnt that the incident occurred along the Governor's Road area of the community.

It was gathered that the suspects posed as passengers and boarded Festus' tricycle.

On getting midway to their destination, the men pulled out guns and attempted to wrest the tricycle from him.

An eyewitness, Femi Adegbenro, said a struggle ensued during which the assailants shot Festus in the head.

Adegbenro said, “He started work as early as 5:30 am on Thursday. The passengers, who were about three in number, boarded his tricycle from the Odo Eran end of Governor’s Road and were perhaps heading to Ikotun. When they got to the Anishere Bus Stop, they decided to rob him of his tricycle, but he refused to let go. That was how they pulled out a gun and shot him on the head.”

The robbers were said to have dumped his lifeless body at the Anishere bus stop before speeding off with the tricycle.

Meanwhile, some of his colleagues who found his body by the roadside were said to have reported the incident at the Idimu Police Station.

A tricycle rider who identified himself simply as Kayode said, “My colleagues found him lifeless with a gunshot wound on his head at the Anishere bus stop, and that was when we knew that he had been robbed since his tricycle was not on the spot. We reported the incident to the police, who came to take his body away.

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“The corpse was later released to the family for burial.”

Another tricycle rider, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, citing personal reasons, said the deceased had experienced a similar attack before the Thursday incident.

“This is the second tricycle he used. The first one was snatched from him in the same way, before he later obtained this new one on rent. Although some people said that was the reason why he might have contended with the armed robbers. May God rest his soul,” the source disclosed.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin, could not be reached for comments 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 this report was filed.

PUNCH Metro reported in June that a commercial tricycle rider died after a head-on collision with a Sports Utility Vehicle reportedly driving against traffic, in the Origan, Oko-Afo area of the state.

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority said the incident occurred along the Badagry Expressway corridor.

According to a statement released by LASTMA spokesperson Adebayo Taofiq, the SUV driver, whose vehicle bore a customised number plate “OSUNFNKE,” was fleeing traffic congestion by taking a one-way route from Ile-Epo towards Oko-Afo when he collided with the oncoming tricycle with the registration number MUS 716 QM.

Taofiq confirmed that the tricyclist sustained severe injuries, including a critical knee dislocation, and died at the scene.