

Hoodlums killed my brother, dashed his dream of greatness – Sibling

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Late Samuel

By Ayoola Olasupo

Haruna Mbami, the elder brother of 26-year-old Samuel, a National Diploma student of Mass Communication at the Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic, Bauchi State, tells AYoola OLASUPO how his brother was stabbed to death by hoodlums who raided his hostel

What is your relationship with Samuel?

I'm the elder brother to the late Samuel Mbami, who was killed on Friday, August 22, 2025.

How old was Samuel?

He was born on the 15th of April, 1999. So, he was 26 years and four months old before his death.

What was the last conversation you had with him?

A day before he died, I spoke with him. He requested some money he wanted to use for verification in school. So, they were asked to prepare some things before the verification commenced. His mother approached me, trying to tell me what Samuel was requesting.

I was even doubting it, but it was later that I discovered that they used to pay some money, especially for those who didn't do their verification on time. It was like a fine for those who did not do their verification during the time they were looking for them to be verified.

I doubted him because I also went to school, but we didn't have it like that. So, I called him on the phone, trying to find out before I was asked to send the money to him. That was the last conversation I had with him before I heard the following morning that he had been stabbed to death.

How did you receive the information about his attack?

A policeman called our mother and told her to rush to the hospital because our son had been attacked and was in an emergency at the Bauchi Teaching Hospital. While she was looking for money to go to the hospital, the policeman now called her back and said he couldn't hide anything from us.

That was how he informed her that Samuel had given up already and that he bled to death. That was how we received the information, and we were able to call some of our people who were around there to visit the hospital, and they confirmed to us that he was dead.

Did the policeman inform you about how Samuel was attacked?

The policeman was not there in the first place when he was attacked. Of course, he was later called upon. Some of the people who were present during the incident, especially one of his roommates, said that when the invaders arrived, they banged on their hostel door while they were sleeping.

The banging of the door woke them up, and they saw the invaders. So, immediately they woke up to challenge those people, one of the invaders took a dagger and stabbed Samuel in the chest. I was told that

Samuel even ran towards the person to grab his clothes, but he fell because blood was already gushing out heavily.

The blood even stained the wall of the room, so I think it was when he was struggling with the person who stabbed him, he ran out of blood, and he fell. After that, they called the policemen, who took him to the hospital. I think it was on their way to the hospital or when they reached the hospital that he died because he had lost a lot of blood.

Has he ever told you he was afraid of something or discussed anything that sounded suspicious?

Samuel was born in my presence. Honestly, I never noticed any bad attitude in him; I never heard that he had a bad reputation or joined any bad group. That is the truth. He was just a small boy. I never heard that some of his friends had bad attitudes, so I wouldn't suspect him of doing anything bad.

Although I didn't know what he was doing in school, I believe he might be doing other things that we did not know about. But as far as we are concerned, we didn't hear anything bad about him. We were even looking up to him because I was the one who was mentoring him and see him study in school.

I advised him and even helped in processing his admission at Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic, Bauchi State, because I called my friend, who is a lecturer in a higher institution, and he helped us with the admission.

I was trying to push him through, thinking we would grow up to help the family, but this (death) has happened to him now. We never heard anything bad about him. He recently got sick before he went back to school.

We treated him, and he stayed almost a month after his treatment in the hospital. He was someone who had been very close to me, and he even slept in my house sometimes.

How would you describe Samuel's personality when he was alive?


Sometimes, you won't know that someone has a very high personality until something happens to him or her. When he died, I didn't know that he was so popular that many people came around to mourn him. In fact, many youths from different angles of the town came around to mourn.

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When we buried him, the place was so crowded that there was no place to step into. People were testifying, saying how they had been together and how good he was to them. Sometimes, as a parent or brother, you cannot know all this until you have someone of that nature to say this about him.

It was even a surprise to us to see people coming from every angle to sympathise with us over the death of our brother. So, with what we saw, he was someone who had a very great personality because people rallied around us because of him. I think he was a man of great personality, who had more influence amongst his peers.

What was your initial reaction when you heard about his death?

It was very shocking; a hypertensive person could collapse after getting the information about his death. Actually, it was very shocking news to us because I had been looking up to him, and I didn't give up on him. So, it isn't easy for us to bear.

What was the atmosphere like during his burial?

Most of his peers, who are youths, came in black wears and gathered to show that they were aggrieved by what happened. A lot of people came there to mourn his death, and they called it candlelight. I have not seen something like this before in our place until Samuel's death. A lot of youth gathered in black with burning candles, going around.

When we went to the mortuary, we had to wait almost an hour before we could carry his corpse. People were coming around to see his remains at the mortuary before it was put in the casket for burial.

Even during his burial, people were sad and not talking to one another.

We never knew that Samuel was such a personality until he died. Everybody is currently aggrieved, and they are talking about the incident.

How has the family been coping with the trauma?

This is a big loss to us, especially our mother. Samuel was the lastborn of the family, and he was someone who was hoping he would grow up to become something in life. Losing him at this time is not easy for us. I want to just say that we are traumatised.

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Did he tell you some of his dreams and future ambitions?

Before he gained admission and left for school, he had some sound instruments he used to play. He would always go from one location to the other to play music. So, he was a Disc Jockey, and often went from one village to another to play at occasions like marriages, birthday parties, and others.

When I saw what he was doing, I told him that he needed to add more to it. I told him to go to school and study mass communication. I told him that studying that course would boost his career, and he heeded to my advice, even when he had never talked to me about going to school before.

During his industrial attachment, he told me he was studying an aspect of mass communication, which deals with sounds and not the one that deals with publicity, so that he could know more about sounds in the studio, or wherever he wanted to work.

Are the police investigating the case?

Yes, after the burial, I called the policeman who was in charge of the case. He told me that they had already arrested about 15 people, and they were in detention. According to him, they are currently investigating the matter with the CID. That is what he told me. But till now, the police have not found the main culprit who stabbed him.

Has the school authority visited to sympathise with the family?

Yes, the head of the school sent a delegation. When Samuel died on Friday, they brought his corpse and handed over the sum of N40,000 to us for his burial, although we bought the casket at N60,000.

Are you confident the police's investigation will yield any fruit?

Our people here are on the disadvantaged side. Sometimes we try to say something, but people look at it differently, but the truth of it is that a lot of things are happening to us here. How would the police say they have arrested 15 people, but they have not arrested the killer till now?

Even if the man is arrested, can that return the life of my dead brother? We have nothing to do now because no matter what we do, Samuel cannot come back to life again. I would just implore the government or the security agencies to do their work and arrest the criminal. Even after arresting them, we'll pray for them that God should touch their minds. They should be taken off the wrong way.

If Samuel could hear you now, what would you like to say to him?

If I were able to talk to him, I would tell him that what happened to him was how God had destined his life to end; that he wouldn't live long to achieve his goal here on earth.