

Motorcyclist dies after police torture in Ogun cell

30th September 2025



File Copy: Ogun Commissioner of Police, Lanre Ogunlowo

Uthman Salami and Anjola Dawodu

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A commercial motorcyclist identified only as Ganiyu has died after being allegedly tortured by officers of the Ago-Iwoye Police Division, Ogun State.

PUNCH Metro gathered on Sunday and Monday that the deceased, said to be an indigene of Oke-Ogun in Oyo State, was arrested after some unidentified assailants robbed one of his customers.

Sources familiar with the matter alleged that Ganiyu, who worked as a commercial motorcyclist in Ago-Iwoye, was severely beaten while in police custody, allegedly leading to his death.

A resident who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue said Ganiyu had been sent on an errand on Saturday by some persons in the community.

However, before he returned, armed robbers reportedly attacked the people who sent him.

“Out of suspicion, they reported him to the Ago-Iwoye Police Division,” the source said.

Confirming parts of the account, a former student union leader of the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Oluwabunmi Awoyemi, who shared the incident on X.com on Sunday, wrote, “On 27/09/2025, around 1:30 am, some guys who lived around Mini Campus asked Ganiyu (the victim) to help buy petrol.

“While he was away, they were attacked and robbed. Robbery has been rampant in Ago-Iwoye for a while, yet nothing has been done about it. But when Ganiyu returned, suspicion immediately fell on him, which simply made him feel guilty.

“The case was reported to the Ago-Iwoye Police Station. Instead of investigating or finding the real robbers, the officers chose the easy target.

“They tied him up. They beat him mercilessly with batons. They slashed and tortured him with machetes until his young body couldn’t take it anymore.”

“He was rushed to the Love and Care Hospital, where he was declared dead. His body is now lying cold at the Ijebu-Ode General Hospital Mortuary.”

Speaking with PUNCH Metro on Sunday and Monday, Awoyemi clarified that his account was based on information shared by members of the local motorcycle riders’ association, noting his previous role as a union leader in the community.

A member of the Oke-Ogun Motorcycle Riders Association in Ago-Iwoye, identified only as Temitope, confirmed the incident, adding that the Divisional Police Officer was not at the station when it occurred.

“The incident had occurred before I was notified. Two of our members were detained; one of them is now dead and in the mortuary.

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“We learnt that after Ganiyu was booked, the officers informed their DPO, who wasn’t in the office at the time, that one of the detainees had died.

“Most times, riders are seen as people without families. The DPO can’t say exactly what happened except for what the officers told him. Nobody would expect them to confess to what they did.”

Also, he said they were told the boy hadn’t given up the ghost before he got to the hospital, but when the Area Commander arrived, he went to confirm whether he was dead or not.

“Before things escalated, Ganiyu was supposed to be granted bail that night, but he wasn’t released. We were told to return the next day by 10 a.m.

“He had been beaten mercilessly since the afternoon he was brought in, and he was bleeding before he eventually died.”

Temitope added that the case had been reported to the state police headquarters in Abeokuta and that both the families involved and the officers on duty had been summoned.

He further explained that the incident stemmed from suspicion raised by one of Ganiyu’s customers, who had earlier asked him to help buy fuel.

“He bought and delivered the fuel before returning home. Later, the customer was robbed and told the police that Ganiyu was the last person who visited.

“When they couldn’t reach him on the phone —because he said he had put it on silent to rest— the customer accused him of being part of the robbery.

“The customer insisted on taking him to the police station, and Ganiyu agreed. That was how he ended up in custody,” Temitope narrated.

When contacted for details, the Ogun State Police Public Relations Officer, CSP Omolola Odutola, said the matter was under investigation.

“I am investigating what really happened,” Odutola said on Sunday.