

Policemen Kill NASFAT Treasurer

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A team of anti-robbery policemen attached to the Orile Police Station have lynched Ismaila Ajayi, a 33-year old man who is the treasurer of Nasrul-Lahi-il Fathi (NASFAT) society of Nigeria, Coker/Aguda zone in Lagos.

P.M.News gathered that the incident, which is currently generating furore at the station and its command, Area C, has pitched some senior police officers against one another.

While some officers are calling for the outright dismissal of the policemen who allegedly beat the NASFAT treasurer to death, others are seeking a soft landing for them under the guise of *esprit de corps*.

There are also those insisting that the errant cops should be prosecuted for assault and murder after their dismissal for intentionally murdering an innocent person.

P.M.News investigation revealed that trouble started when the anti-robbery policemen headed by Mr. Ibrahim Abdulsalami stormed Zion Street in Sari Iganmu and went to the deceased's shop in search of a suspect that allegedly escaped from their bus during their raid.

According to Mr. Abdul Raheem Anigogo, who was also apprehended by the policemen,

"I was approaching Ismail's shop when I saw a large crowd being manhandled by the policemen.

"I asked what was the matter, and as Ismail was trying to refute the accusation of harbouring the run-away person they were looking for, the policemen handcuffed and beat him mercilessly before taking into their bus. They took me along with them to continue their raid.

"They were carrying us round Badia area, but a few minutes later, Ismail started complaining of internal pains around his body but the policemen did not listen to him.

"When I protested on his behalf, one of them slapped me and asked me to shut up.

"It was when they realised that Ismail had started gasping for breath and vomiting whitish substance that they decided to take him to Rotunda Hospital.

"I was kept in their bus and was later detained before I was granted bail.

"But before then, Ismail had already died because of the severe beating."

P.M.News learnt that several people were injured when relatives and members of the Coker/Aguda NASFAT zone stormed the police station to see the corpse of Ismail.

The police shot sporadically into the air to scare people away before men of the Rapid Response

Squad arrived the area with an armoured tank, which is currently parked in front of the station.

When *P.M.News* visited the area, Dr. Oneye of Rotunda Hospital located near Orile bus stop, where Ismaila was rushed to, explained what happened.

"The policemen from Orile Station brought a man and told me to look into his health situation; that he fell down while he was trying to run away.

"They added that they wanted to arrest a man they learnt ran into Ismail's shop and while they were questioning him, he started running and fell down.

"But the truth is, he was brought in dead here," he said.

However, the 62-year old father of the late Ismail, Mr. Tajudeen Olalekan Ajayi described the police statement as a lie.

According to him, "They are only looking for excuses to get themselves out of this mess.

"My son is not a trouble maker. They illegally assaulted and murdered my first born.

"How do they want me to take care of his wife and three kids?" he queried.

The deceased's wife, Mrs. Aminat Ajayi wept: "How can you be looking for a criminal in a small open shop? My God, please help me."

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of the Orile

Police Station, Mr. Emmanuel, confirmed the incident to *P.M.News* during a telephone call.

According to him, "the Area commander and the commissioner of police, Mr. Abubakar Mohammed are aware.

"We have been holding talks with the family and I believe everything is under control.

"The squad in question are currently in detention at our area command," he said.

Also, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Bode Ojajuni told *P.M.News* that the commissioner of police has ordered that the case should be investigated urgently because he learnt the deceased was not the run-away criminal.

P.M.News further learnt that Ismail has been buried on Friday according to Islamic rites.



•The late Ismaila Ajayi.