

Family demands justice for okada rider killed over N150

By **Louis Ibah**

THE family of a commercial motorcycle operator, Rafiu Gafar, 36, killed by his passenger, has demanded for justice.

Gafar was allegedly beaten to death by a passenger, Ibrahim Suliamon, on July 6, 2017, in the Akute area of Ogun State, and his family has insisted that they want justice to enable the soul of their son rest in peace.

A family source, John, gave a graphic account of how his brother was gruesomely murdered: "For four days the whereabouts of Rafiu was not known, until a detective from the Ajuwon divisional police headquarters showed us pictures of his dead body; he was allegedly hit on his head by a passenger on that fateful Thursday over a mere N150.

"His assailant, Ibrahim Suliamon, an indigene of Okene in Kogi State, had allegedly hit Rafiu on the head while they were arguing over N150 being a fare for conveying him and his friend to Reality Plaza in Bale Akinosi, along the Lagos State Water Corporation pipeline in Ajuwon area of Ogun State.

"Rafiu had taken Suliamon and Ahmed to the plaza and upon getting to the agreed destination, the passengers gave him a N500 note and requested for the balance of N350. Rafiu told them he did not have up to the balance of N350 to give back, as he had exhausted the lower denominations in his pocket.

"Ahmed, upon learning that Rafiu had no balance to give, decided to go inside and collect the sum of N200 from his wife to give to Rafiu. Rafiu complained of being unnecessarily delayed over his fare, requesting that they hurried up. Following the verbal exchange, he forcefully remove a 2x4 inches plywood used to cover a soakaway nearby and severally hit Rafiu on the head and his chin.

"We were told that while Rafiu fell to the ground, Ibrahim arrogantly walked away and went inside the house at about 7pm when the incident happened.

"It was not until about 10pm, three hours after Rafiu was smacked with the object that someone, sensing that the incident would put the community in serious problems, called the Divisional Police Officer of Ajuwon Police Station.