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Gunman kills Chinese accountant in Lagos, snatches money

August 11, 2011



Entrance to ChinaTown in Lagos

On **9 August**, a gunman shot and killed the Chief Accountant of Western Metal Products Company Limited (WEMPCO), in Ogba, Lagos State, making away with an unspecified amount of money. The victim was a Chinese, identified as Chun Yuen Henry.

Reports said Mr Chun was heading from the Adeniji Jones branch of a new generation bank back to his company, when the incident happened around 5pm. The gunman, wearing a mobile (anti-riot) police uniform, had apparently trailed him from the bank.

Eye witnesses said the unsuspecting Chinese man who was riding in a white WEMPCO bus with Lagos registration number XM 318 LSD, was awaiting the green go-ahead from a traffic light on Acme Road, when the attacker walked up and shot him on the head. The gunman then grabbed the money from the bank, which was by the victim's seat, and fled before shocked onlookers could recover enough to challenge him.

The accounts said Chun's driver, one Olasunkanmi Akeem, who was the only other person with him in the car, came out of the vehicle and called for public help. But Mr Chun was already dead, before anyone could start rushing him to a hospital. The police later took the corpse to a mortuary.

The Commissioner of Police in Lagos State, Mr Yusuf Alkali, expressed concern that while his command had given WEMPCO enough police guards and escorts, no policemen was detailed to accompany Mr Chun to the bank. He said the incident may have been averted, if the Chinese accountant had one of the policemen with him. However, he said his command had already stepped up its investigation of the case.

Following the growth of Chinese investments in Nigeria in recent years, there is a growing Chinese expatriate community in several urban centres across the country, especially in Lagos. A very popular Chinese market – China Town – was opened in Lagos in 2004.

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