



## Church murder: 'Killers raped, smashed mum's head'

March 6, 2017 Taiwo Jimoh



Armed men, who invaded a church at Agbowo area of Ikorodu, Lagos, last week, actually violated their victim, a 53-year-old woman, before snuffing life out of her. Her daughter, Miss Abiodun Kokoroaye, 26, disclosed this to New Telegraph yesterday.

The woman, Mrs. Olayinka Kokoroaye, her two grandchildren and a housemaid, were murdered about 3a.m., last Tuesday inside a Cherubim and Seraphim Church at Oshiyemi Street, Mosafejo community, Agbowo in Ikosi Ejirin Local Council Development Area.

Revealing her family's horrifying death, Abiodun said the killers raped her mother before shattering her head with a pestle. According to her, the killers also smashed the heads of the three youngsters. She said: "The assailants striped my mother and removed the cross hanging around her waist before they raped her.

The assailants killed my mother, my son, my elder brother's daughter and our housemaid. "My stepmother phoned my husband that something terrible had happened.

Immediately, I dashed over to check my mother before the arrival of the policemen. What I saw shocked me. There was semen in her private part. After raping her, they picked one of the clothes in the room to cover her private part and left her face open."

Last week, Kokoroaye and her grandchildren – Christiana Kokoroaye (five) and Inumidun Yusuf (five) – and 11-year-old Deborah Thomos (housemaid), were sleeping inside a part of the church called 'Testimony room' (Ile-Eri), when the killers struck. Residents said that a similar attack, on a father and his two children was carried out at Olayimika Oluwabiye Street, in the same community, on the same day. Many believed the killers were the same people.

It was learnt that Kokoroaye, her two grandchildren and maid, were initially sleeping in another part of the church, but decided to change location because of heat.

They moved into the Testimony room, where they all met their death. Recalling the event, Abiodun said: "I was with her till 9p.m. before I went to my husband's house.


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It was because of her that made me to relocate to the community with my elder brother. "After they raped my mother, they used a pestle to smash her head and those of the three children.

It was when the policemen arrived that they discovered the pestle. "My elder brother, Oluwaseun, was returning from Olayimika Street, where he went to rescue a family that was attacked by the assailants when he saw our father and stepmother on the road weeping.

He didn't know that his own child had been murdered by the killers." Abiodun said every member of the family was shocked when policemen from Agbowo Police Station arrested Oluwaseun, alleging that he was behind the murder of his mother and the three kids.

According to Abiodun, when policemen were queried on why they arrested Oluwaseun, they claimed to have seen a yellow wristband on him. They alleged that wristband is usually worn by cult members.

The police accused him of sending killers to the church. It was learnt that Oluwaseun asked them why he would ordered anyone to kill his mother and his child. Before the policemen granted Oluwaseun bail in the sum of N10,000, they also allegedly collected his two phones and N20,000. The family explained that the N20,000 was demanded by the police for processing of some documents at Ikeja High Court.

The family alleged that till date, the police were yet to return Oluwaseun's two phones. Abiodun urged the Lagos State government and the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Fatai Owoseni, to come to the aid of the community as they believed that serial killers were on the loose. She said that many residents had fled their homes for fear of being attacked by the assailants. Mrs. Olorunfunmi Kokoroaye (Olayinka's rival), said that she would have been killed too, but for divine intervention.

She said: "We were all together till 10p.m. when I told my senior wife (Olayinka) that I was going into another room to sleep. I was still inside my room when I heard noises from a street close to us about 3a.m. I came out to check what was happening. My stepson, Oluwaseun, went to the other street to find out what was happening.

I stayed outside, waiting for my stepson. I went into the room where the senior wife and children were sleeping to inform her about the development in the community. To my surprise, I met her and the three children in a pool of blood. "Immediately, I raised the alarm, which attracted some members of the community. We also found a pestle, which was stained with blood.

There was blood everywhere in the room. We have been in the community for over 15 years; we have never witnessed this sort of incident." On his part, Oluwaseun said the little girl that was killed alongside his mother was his first daughter.

He said: "Yet, policemen came and arrested me. They said a wristband, which I used to wear on my wrist, belongs to cult members. I was arrested and detained for two days. I was bailed with N10,000 and my two phones were seized.

"I told the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Agbowo Police Station, that I didn't belong to any cult group. He still detained me for offence I didn't know anything about. I want police to investigate this case very well."

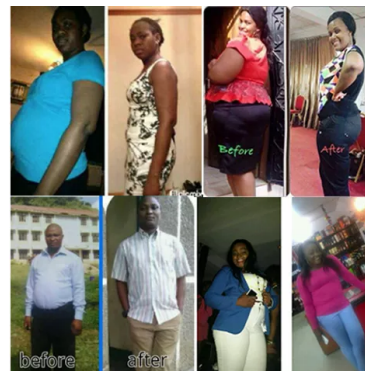
When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) ASP Olarinde Famous-Cole, said the case was under investigation. Reacting to Oluwaseun's allegation, Famous-Cole urged him to make an official report against Agbowo Policemen.

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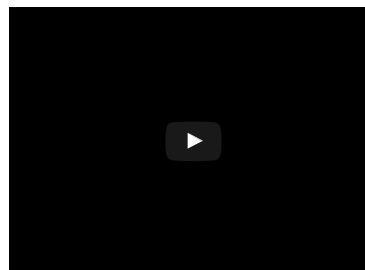
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