

Crime

Mystery man walks into police station to report murder

...gives details of killing, victim's relations' phone numbers

Taiwo Jimoh

Policemen at Surulere Police Station in Ilorin, Kwara State, are still frantically trying to locate a mysterious man that sauntered into their station and disclosed the murder of a truck driver, Mr. Emmanuel Adegoke.

The stranger gave a vividly description of where the truck of the deceased was parked and also dropped phone numbers of the family members of the victim. He also mentioned how the truck driver was killed.

While the police were trying to get their acts together, to take his statement and ask further questions, he stepped out. The policemen went round the premises, looking for him, but he appeared to have simply disappeared into thin air.

The information, given by the mysterious stranger, led to the discovery of the truck and arrest of Emmanuel's killer.

Till date, police have not seen the stranger. The policemen initially thought it was a prank, but decided to try the phone numbers. Low and behold, the owners of the phone numbers said that they had been looking for their missing father and husband.

Emmanuel's family members rushed to Kwara State Police, working on the information given by the stranger, arrested Alfa Jamiu, alleged killer of Emmanuel. Jamiu was alleged to have shot his friend to death, abandoned his body in the bush and made away with the victim's truck. He had concluded plans to move the truck to Niger State, with a buyer waiting, when police arrested him.

After Jamiu's arrest and recovery of the truck, the case was transferred to the Lagos State Police Command, which has jurisdiction on the case. Emmanuel was murdered in Agbowo, Ikorodu area of Lagos State.

According to investigation carried out by policemen in Kwara State, 47-year-old Emmanuel was killed by his buddy, Jamiu. In order to take over his brand new truck. The truck was bought on hire purchase.

Emmanuel, a father of three, was in his village at Adamo, Ikorodu, when Jamiu called him. He told him that there was a contract for them to supply granite to a customer at Agbowo area.



The victim, Adegoke

Alfa Jamiu, the suspect

Emmanuel received the phone call about 3a.m., and had immediately dressed up. He was accompanied to the gate of their house by his wife, Grace, who bid him safe trip. The wife, now a widow, didn't know that would be the last time she would see Emmanuel.

The grieving Grace explained that January 7, 2020, was the last time she saw and spoke with her husband. She said that the day would forever remain etched in her memory as the saddest day of her life.

Grace recalled the event leading to her husband's murder.

"My husband returned home on Friday, which was January 6. He said that he didn't want to wake up late because he had to be somewhere very early the following day. When he said he was going out on Saturday morning, I told him to stay back and relax, but he insisted that he would go out to do the work. He told me that he needed to pay the seller of the truck which he had just bought. The payment was supposed to be on instalment. He said that he had to go out to work if he hoped to start paying the seller. He told me that whatever money he made on that Saturday, would be added to the money he wanted to give to the seller of the truck.

"He told me before he left home, that his friend, Alfa Jamiu, called and had asked him to join him to supply five trucks of granite. Alfa Jamiu told my husband that he would allow him

to supply two, while he would supply three. In fact, we were sleeping when Alfa Jamiu called, asking him to hurry and meet him. Before he stepped out of the house, I asked him who the Alfa was; he replied that I wouldn't know him. He said that they were colleagues. I accompanied him to the gate. As he was walking away, he glanced back and asked me to pray for his safety. I then bid him farewell, not knowing that was the last time I would see him. I returned to the room to pray for his safety," the wife said.

Grace said that she woke up again about 6:30a.m. and tried to call Emmanuel. She said that she just wanted to check on him and find out if they had supplied the granite.

She added: "I tried his phone several times, but it was not going through. When my daughter noticed I was becoming worried, she urged me to relax, that her dad would return home safely. In spite of her assurance, I was still troubled. My daughter and I later went to Baba Aisha's house, a family friend, to tell him about my worries and the fact that my husband's phone was not going through. Baba Aisha told me to relax, that it might be network problem."

Grace said that she waited for some hours, hoping and praying that Emmanuel would call, but he didn't.

She said: "I then called one of his apprentices, who told me that he also had been waiting for my husband at the bus stop since 5a.m. The appren-

tice said that he had tried to reach him via phone, but couldn't. At that point, I started crying. I just knew something had happened to him. I didn't know that he had been murdered."

Grace soon wiped her tears and decided to embark on amateur investigation herself. She started by asking the apprentice if he knew Alfa Jamiu. He replied that the man was also a truck driver. The apprentice went to the park where truck drivers used to gather, to alert them that Emmanuel could not be reached on his phone. The elders there immediately called Jamiu.

Grace recollected: "When Alfa Jamiu was called, he explained that after he and my husband supplied the granite, they went their separate ways. He said that he was on his way to Ilorin, Kwara State, for a function. When another person from the garage called him, he told the person that he was at a wedding party. It was then everybody in the garage knew something was fishy. The chairman of the 'garage' called and ordered Jamiu to leave everything he was doing and return to Lagos. He didn't respond; he just switched off his phone. It was then we went to Agbowo Police Station to report the matter."

Emmanuel's daughter, Oyindamola Adegoke, said: "It was God that arrested Jamiu. The matter was reported at Surulere Police Station in Ilorin, Kwara State by someone nobody knows. When we were contacted by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of the station, he described the case as mysterious because of the man that came to report the case at his station. He explained that a man came to report the matter and then disappeared. They couldn't find or locate him."

Oyindamola added that the DPO said that the person who came to report the matter gave them a vivid description of where the stolen truck was parked.

She said: "He also gave the police our phone numbers to reach us. The policemen followed the direction, truck and Jamiu somewhere in Ilorin on his way to Jebba in Niger State to sell the truck. It was when we got to Ilorin that Jamiu confessed that he killed my dad. According to him, after my dad rushed out to meet him on that fateful day, they embarked on the journey to supply the supposed granite. On the way, Jamiu told my dad that he wanted to defecate. My dad also decided to use the opportunity to urinate. Jamiu said that as my dad was coming out from where he went to urinate, he shot him on his arm. My dad struggled with him, and in the process of the struggle, the second bullet hit him. Jamiu covered

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my dad's body with leaves in the bush and went away with my dad's truck.

"When Jamiu was asked where he concealed my dad's corpse, he told us to go to Agbowo. We returned to Lagos and went straight to the area he directed us. We found my dad's bloated corpse. The corpse was evacuated by policemen from Agbowo Police Station and taken to the mortuary."

Oyindamola said documents of the truck were found on Jamiu, which made the police to arrest him. It was when he realised that his game was up that he started singing like a bird.

She said: "When the policemen recovered documents of the truck from Jamiu, they noticed that the name on them didn't tally with the one on Alfa Jamiu's identity card. They arrested him. The police promised to transfer the case to Lagos for further investigation."

Emmanuel's sister, Mrs. Toyin Tiamiyu, said that she had lost a friend.

She said: "We still have an aged mother, but we have not told her that our brother had been killed. We don't know how she would react on receiving the news. On the fateful day my brother bought the truck, he called and told me, and I prayed on it. I'm going to miss him dearly."

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Bala Elkana, said Jamiu was tracked to Kwara State, where the truck was recovered from him.

He said: "A locally-made pistol, used by the suspect to kill the victim, was also recovered. The suspect lied to the victim that he had granites, which he wanted to supply. He suggested that they should execute the contract together. While heading to the supposed site to load the granites, the suspect lied to the victim that he wanted to defecate himself. The victim also said he wanted to urinate. Immediately the victim was coming out from where he went to urinate, the suspect brought out a

gun, shot and killed him. After he confirmed and was satisfied that the victim was dead, he took the victim's truck and ran to Ilorin, in Kwara State. He was arrested in Ilorin.

"The Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, has ordered detectives investigating the case to transfer it to the Homicide Section of the State Criminal Investigations and Intelligence Department (SCIID), Panti, Yaba, for further investigation. The victim's remains have been evacuated and deposited at mortuary for autopsy. After completion of the investigation, the suspect would be charged to court."