

## Police chase tricycle rider to death over N1,000 bribe

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March 10, 2020    Taiwo Jimoh



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olicemen attached to Abattoir Police Station, Agege area of Lagos State have reportedly chased a tricycle rider, Abubakar James, to death.

James left his park on Thursday at Agege heading for Abule-Egba bus stop, when he was flagged down by the policemen at Abattoir bus stop for plying the restricted route.

The policemen reportedly demanded a N1,000 bribe from James, an indigene of Kogi State.

The deceased, however, told the policemen he did not have up to N1,000.

The victim's friend, who gave his name simply as Christopher, said James told him on his hospital bed before he died that after he declined to give them the money, he drove off with his passengers, after the policemen refused to collect N500,00 he offered them.

He said:

“James said before he realised what was happening, he saw the policemen's patrol van coming after him in an attempt to impound his tricycle. It was when he tried to avoid being arrested that he rammed his tricycle into a commercial bus.

“It was some Good Samaritans that used James’ phone to call me. When some other riders and I got to the scene, James was lying in a pool of his blood.

“Unfortunately, the policemen eventually impounded his tricycle and took it to their station. We rushed him to the hospital. But when we got to the hospital, we were told that his spinal cord had broken. The passengers in his tricycle had gone before we got to the scene.

“It was painful that a nice person like that died in that manner. I believe he had not made a lot of money on that fateful day. I trust him; he would have given the policemen the money. But the old Abeokuta-Agege-Abattoir Road for which the policemen killed him is not part of the restricted routes by the state government.”

Another of his friends, Chukuwudi Nnamdi, said it was when the policemen were chasing James that he rammed his tricycle into a commercial bus.

According to him, James died three days after he was admitted at the hospital where he was rushed to.

He said: “Some Good Samaritans, who gathered at the scene, told us that it was the same policemen that took him to the hospital and left him there and took his tricycle to their police station.

“James and I worked in the same company before we were sacked in 2016. It was after we were sacked that we got the tricycles we were both riding on higher purchase.

“It was true that some roads were restricted roads in the state, but that of old Abeokuta Road is not part of them, we are law-abiding citizens. Whenever we are passing through Abattoir Police Station we usually give the policemen money. Even after the restriction, we still give them money. I don’t know why they killed the innocent man.”

Another tricycle rider, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the excesses of the policemen were becoming unbearable.

He said: “That was how they chased a tricycle rider at Berger and ran its tricycle into a commercial bus. One of his legs was amputated.

“Even the policemen from Elere are also fond of chasing motorcycles and tricycles. If such a person is able to bribe them, they would allow him to go. We are Nigerians; police should stop killing us. We are not foreigners.”

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Bala Elkana, promised to get back to our correspondent.

He,

however, did not do that at press time.

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