

# How Hoodlums Beat Vigilante To Death Over Turkey



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...12 suspects arrested –Police

## Murder

A 45-year-old member of a vigilance group, simply identified as Oluwafemi has allegedly been beaten to death by some hoodlums he was trying to stop from picking contaminated turkey from a dump site at Epe, Lagos State.

The victim who was working with IBILE Vigilance group was said to have tried to stop the hoodlums who were picking the conterminated turkey dumped on the refuse site at Afero village, by operatives of the Lagos State Taskforce who seized it from sellers across the town.

The Taskforce officials swung into action, raided those selling conterminated turkey and dumped same on a refuse site just as some other food items were destroyed by the officials.

The hoodlums were said to have regrouped and went to the refuse site to pick the turkey dumped their by the police Taskforce, when the vigilance man tried to stop them from picking same, the hoodlums pounced on him, beating him blue and black for trying stopping them.

## Genesis

Mr Rasak Adejuwon, who spoke with our correspondent on phone said few hours after the personnel of the Police Taskforce left Afero village refuse site, where the turkey were dumped, the hoodlums who lives on the site, who ran away when they saw the policemen, came back and started picking the conterminated turkey.



The late Oluwafemi was trying to dissuade them from taking it, because it is not good for their health, but he left when they didn't answer him and returned again to talk to them, it was in the process that the hoodlums attacked him, "before some of us could get close to the scene he was already bleeding and the hoodlums had also escaped."

"I and some other people close to the refuse site immediately rushed him to the hospital for medical attention and his family members were also contacted, he was discharged hale and herty.

He sustained injuries on his left leg and back, we also contacted his group members in the vigilantes. He said: "It was after the commander of the Vigilante arrived the hospital that we went to our various homes.

I later got information that the vigilance man has died as a result of the injuries he sustained from the attack from the hoodlums.

"This is not the first time issues like this would be happening on the refuse site. Those on the site are mostly boys from the northern part of the country doing scrap business, with some of our Yoruba people.

We work with policemen and the vigilance people to arrests some of the hoodlums, initially two of the suspects were arrested, but several others were arrested in further operations.

"Those boys on the refuse site are always violent simply because of the hard drugs they are taking, on a slightest issue they get angry and become violent. It was just because the vigilante man was trying to dissuade them from eating it that was why he was beaten to death.

They have different arms and ammunition on the refuse site.” He however urged the police and the vigilance group to flush the hoodlums out of the refuse site and use the place for something better.

Another resident, who simply gave his name as Toheeb, said they have tried to chase the hoodlums from the refuse site on several occasions, but that some people are collecting money from them to remain and continue their havoc.

“We are tired of the hoodlums activities on the refuse site, because they are constituting nuisance in the area. They smoke weed and do some other unspeakable acts in the community.

“As a community leader, we have written to the chairman of our local government to look into the issue of the hoodlums on the refuse site, because they are dangerous people and you dare not walk through the area at night, you will regret it, everything on you will be collected from you.

The manner the vigilance man was injured is barbaric. “Just because someone was trying to save you from dying, what you will pay that person back with is death, that was exactly what the hoodlums did to the vigilance man.

I don’t know when it becomes a crime, because what they want to eat is poison. All I want is for them to leave the refuse site.”

## **Death**

It was gathered that after Oluwafemi was discharged from the hospital and confirmed hale and hardy, few days after, his condition relapsed and he was rushed back to the hospital, but was confirmed dead by the medical doctor on duty after battling to save his life for hours.

One of his colleagues who spoke with our correspondent on phone on condition of anonymity, said they were happy after he was released from the hospital, but he later relapsed and was rushed to the hospital where he later died.

“We were happy that after receiving the first treatment he would be fine, not until our commander received a phone call from his wife that his condition is worse and we rushed down to his house and we rushed him back to Epe General Hospital where he was confirmed dead by a doctor.

“Late Oluwafemi was a gentleman, you can’t see him in a troubled spot. Very calm. I was told he was only desuading the hoodlums from eating the conterminated turkey on the site when they attacked him, which led to his death.”

## **Tip-off**

A member of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rasheed Shabi and the Oloja of Epe, Oba Kamorudeen Animashaun, both were said to have informed the Taskforce team about the conterminated turkey in the community.

Some unscrupulous elements bought the conterminated turkey from another refuse site in the town and took it to the town to resell it to the public, when it was seized from them again by the operatives of the Taskforce officials and destroyed at Afero

village refuse site where another set of hoodlums went there to pick it again, but were stopped by the vigilance man who was later attacked to death.

It was learnt that 12 suspects involved in the attack on the IBILE vigilance man has been arrested and transferred to the Lagos State Taskforce office at Bolade, Oshodi for further investigation.

### **Police react**

The Lagos State Police Command Public Relation Officer (PPRO), SP Benjamin Hundeyin, said on July 15, at about 4: 30pm report was received at Epe Police Division that on July 12, 2024, that an IBILE Vigilance member, one Oluwafemi, 45, was attacked by some suspected hoodlums at a refuse site at Afero village, Epe.

Hundeyin said Oluwafemi was trying to dissuade the miscreants from picking disposed frozen turkey from the dump site.

He said: “It was in the process of dissuading the hoodlums that he sustained injuries on the his left leg and back of his waist and he was rushed to the Epe General Hospital where he was treated and discharged, but on July 15, at about 2:30pm his condition relapsed and he was taken back to the general hospital.

“The doctors on duty battled to save his life, but unfortunately he died. His remains was deposited at the mortuary and two suspects were arrested in addition to the 12 already arrested and handed over to the Taskforce team at Oshodi, while investigation is ongoing on the matter.”