

Corpse at Ogba: Police arrest boyfriend, two others

● Identity of victim revealed

By Evelyn Usman

SHOCK and disbelief were the best words to describe the expressions on the faces of residents of Adeshina street in Ogba area of Lagos state as they beheld the lifeless body of a pregnant lady who was last Wednesday abandoned in the middle of the street close to a bus-stop along Ajayi road.

The question on their lips was what could the deceased had done to deserve such gruesome treatment from her assailants.

The identity of the deceased was not immediately known until a young lady who, out of curiosity, decided to have a glimpse at the subject of attraction, shouted, "yeh! I know her! She is Mariam! What happened to her? How did it happen?" She asked without directing her questions to anybody in particular.

The lifeless body which was abandoned stark naked with the deceased clothes littered round the area, had blood gushing out from a part of her head.

Before the deceased was identified, some of the on-lookers said she could have been a harlot that was strangled by her male customers or that she could have been a victim of ritualist.

However, at the sight of a police van, the on-lookers all took to their heels, apparently to avoid a possible arrest.

Investigation by *City Scope* revealed that the deceased, Mariam was a former employee at a popular Hotel in Ifako, Ogba where she worked as a receptionist and was four-month pregnant when she was gruesomely murdered.

But the Police last Friday said they had arrested three persons including the deceased boyfriend, his elder brother and sister in connection with the murder.

Preliminary investigations by the police, as gathered, revealed that Mariam who was four months pregnant for her boyfriend, was raped before she was shot dead by her assailants on that fateful Wednesday night.

City Scope also gathered that the deceased who until her death resided at number 5, Suru street, Oke-Ira Ogba, confided in one of her friends that she was four months pregnant for her boyfriend named Julius Odigie. She was said to have visited her boyfriend on the day she met her tragic end. During the visit, a heated argument over responsibility of the pregnancy reportedly ensued. An unconfirmed report however told *City Scope* that the deceased was beaten by her boyfriend who insisted that he was not responsible for the pregnancy. She was said to have left the boyfriend's place with a promise to bring members of her family the next day. But little did she know that she was not going to fulfil her promise as few minutes after she left, life was snuffed

out of her at Ajayi street.

When *City Scope* visited the deceased residence in Ogba, most people approached kept sealed lip, apparently thinking this reporter was a police detective.

Police sources at area 'G' command where the arrested suspects are currently being quizzed told *City Scope* that the deceased was found with a bunch of keys belonging to her boyfriend's brother.

According to these sources, "We have arrested the late Mariam's boyfriend named Julius Odigie, a 35-year-old automobile mechanic whom she was four months pregnant for. Also in our custody are his elder brother, Douglas whom we discovered owns the bunch of keys the deceased was clutching on her hands, and his sister. Investigation is still going on and we will make public our findings at the end of the investigation".

'During the visit, a heated argument over responsibility of the pregnancy reportedly ensued, an unconfirmed report however told City Scope that the deceased was beaten by her boyfriend who insisted that he was not responsible for the pregnancy. She was said to have left the boyfriend's place with a promise to bring members of her family the next day...'

TIPS ON HOW TO AVOID HANDSET THEFT

- Avoid public display (especially expensive camera phones).
- Avoid making or receiving calls while driving.
- Do not display your sets inside your car (especially while alone).
- Beware of distractions from unknown faces while in hold-up.
- Always wind-up your glasses while in a hold-up.
- Always lock your car doors while in a hold-up.
- Always watch recharge card sellers while they are soliciting for customers.