

Hunter kills friend in hunting jamboree

Evelyn Usman

AS Sunday Ogbe left the apartment he shared with his parents in Oke-Agbo village, Ikorodu, an out-skirts of Lagos, two weeks ago, in the company of about eight hunters who were going for a hunting expedition, little did he realise that he would end up the prey.

Vanguard gathered that 26-year-old Sunday who had little or no knowledge about hunting, decided to be the hunters' 'ambulance,' a term commonly used by hunters to describe anyone who volunteers to help carry prey during hunting.

Some of the villagers said Sunday expressed optimism on that day's catch and promised to give his share to his mother for the New Year. But that was not to be as he never lived to see his dream come true, following a shot from one of the hunters who aimed at an antelope but rather shot Sunday in the heart.

Ironically, the hunter that pulled the trigger that snuffed life out of Sunday, happened to be his childhood friend.

When news of Sunday's death filtered into the sleepy village at about 7 p.m., the whole village was thrown into confusion. Women wailed while the men fought hard to hold back tears merely shaking their heads in regrets.

Sunday's mother who rolled on the floor could not be consoled as she regretted ever allowing her son to join the hunters in their expedition. In order to ensure that the accused hunter was not lynched by some youths in the village, elders of the village first contacted their head who was said to have kept Sunday in his custody before the arrival of policemen from Ikorodu, from where he was later transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) Panti.

Looking remorseful and clinging a Bible close to himself as if his release depended on it, the suspect, Adeyemi Julius admitted that he did not kill his friend of over 15 years intentionally.

Rather, he said he fired some shots at an antelope during the expedition, when all of a sudden he heard someone groaning in the bush. On arriving the spot, he said he was shock to see Sunday in pains on the floor.

According to him, "I am a hunter and a farmer. In fact, the deceased in question was my best friend. We attended the same primary and secondary school together in Oke-Agbo. Our farm lands are close to each other's. He was more than a friend to me. He was just like a brother.

"So on the 28 of December, 2006, the Hunters Association of the village agreed to go hunting. Before we left, Sunday said he would be part of it. But I refused because he had never been a

hunter. But he insisted that he would be my ambulance and I agreed because I did not want him to feel bad and besides, since it was about three days to New Year, I felt his family would use what he would be given at the end of the day for the New Year. If I had known he was going to be shot dead by no other person but me, I would have vehemently refused him from joining us.

So we set out for the bush at about 4 p.m., every hunter with his gun, while Sunday followed. In fact, on our way to the bush, I cautioned him to be by my side always at least for his protection, since he had no gun with him.

When we got to the bush, we made a temporary hut. Hardly had we settled down when we saw an antelope jump out from nowhere. They were two. The first one escaped but the second one ran into the bush and we went after it. It crossed into a cassava farm and in its bid to escape I shot at it. I saw the antelope crystal clear before I shot at it. But all of a sudden, someone screamed from the bush and we all ran to his aid, thinking it was one of us who could have been attacked by an animal. But to my surprise, it was Sunday, my best friend that followed me down as my ambulance.

He was in the pool of his own blood and held on to his chest. I was so shock to even move a step further. I just stood perplexed because I least expected to see him where he laid in pains because as at the time the first

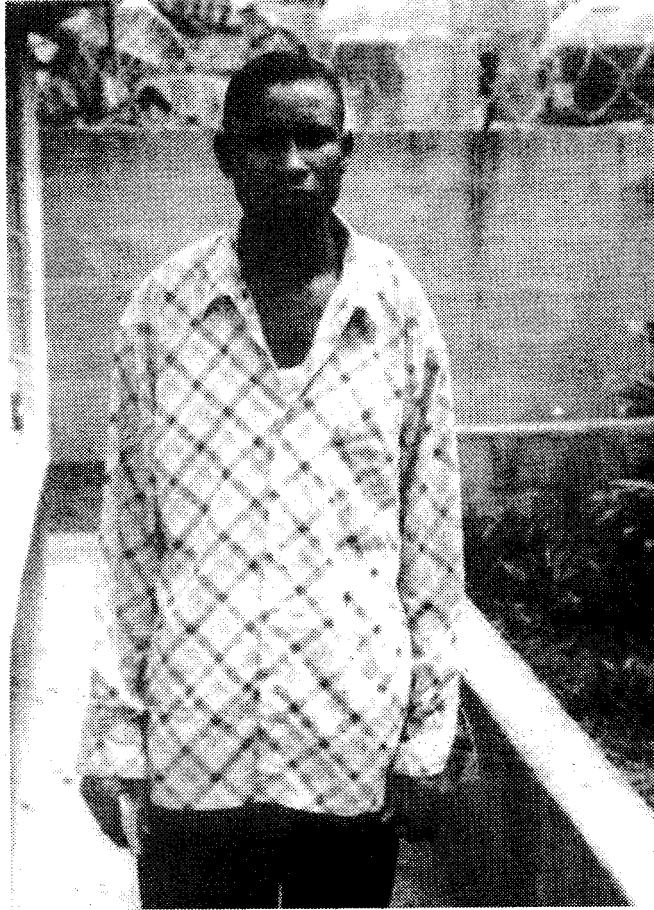
to our kabiyesi and reported the matter. He, in return, contacted the police at Ikorodu, following which I was arrested.

But to my surprise, his family only requested for money with which to take his corpse home. I swear to the almighty God that I did not shoot him intentionally. How could I shoot a friend that was so close to me like a

brother? I could not have killed my confidant."

Asked if he would continue hunting should he be granted bail, he replied, "Hunting ke? God forbid. My parents will never allow me to hunt anymore. I will just concentrate on my farming and my commercial motorcycle.

That way I know God will help me," he said.



The suspect, Adeyemi Julius admitted that he did not kill his friend of over 15 years intentionally.

Obasanjo, Atiku feud not bad for Nigeria — CLERIC

By Ise-Oluwa Ige

ABUJA—WHILE quite a number of Nigerians see the rift between President Olusegun Obasanjo and Vice President Atiku Abubakar as a threat to democracy, the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja Dioceses, Most Reverend John Onayekan saying that it will help, in no small way, to develop the nation's jurisprudence.

He urged Nigerians not to entertain any needless fear over their continued altercations.

The clergy spoke with newsmen Monday shortly after the swearing-in of three new justices of the apex court.

According to him, Nigeria is bigger than the President and his Vice.

The feud, he said was not bad for the country but that how it played out might affect the country.

"The dispute will shake things around, the issues disturbing us can come to the fore," he added.

Asked if it was possible for him to intervene and settle the

rift, he said that Obasanjo and his vice had not told Nigerians the cause of their quarrel and that it would be difficult for him or anyone to call a truce until the real cause of the feud had been disclosed.

He said, "I am not too worried about what is happening between them, because we have a way of coming back from the brink of chaos, but we should not stretch our luck too far."

Onayekan, however, said

he expected politicians to resolve the dispute.

He urged the executive and the legislative arms of government to emulate the judiciary, saying "things are done according to laid down rules.

"What happened here this morning is one of the few things that gives me hope and I think that if every other arm of government does things according to laid down procedures, things will not be as bad as they are now."

Saudi boy hangs self to mimic Saddam

A 12-YEAR-OLD Saudi Arabian boy after watching footage of Saddam Hussein's execution, has committed suicide.

According to reports, the Saudi boy who hanged himself in north eastern Saudi Arabia may have been influenced by television coverage of Saddam Hussein's execution, a newspaper reported on Monday. The 12-year-old boy

used a chair and metal wire to hang himself from a door frame at his family's home in the city of Hafr al-Baten, near the border with Kuwait, al-Hayat daily said.

An unnamed security source said the boy had watched television footage of the ex-Iraqi leader's hanging.

Officials could not be reached for comment.

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