

# CITY SCOPE

## Robbery attack: How Police ignored our call ...laments daughter of slain ex-army officer

By Agozino Emmanuel

**T**HE grief that enveloped the compound of Chief Lawrence Balogun, was glaringly noticeable as one approaches the large gate at number 5, Amosu street, off Tayo Makinde street at Jankara Ijaiye Ojokoro, Ogun state. The 52 years old retired Army Captain met his untimely death in the hands of unknown gunmen who invaded his residence Saturday last week.

This is inspite of the fact that Chief Balogun took all necessary precautions including having a gun to safeguard himself and his family when ever the need arose, but all his human efforts were futile as the daredevil robbers patiently waited for him to exhaust his bullets after which they pumped volleys of bullets from their sophisticated weapons into his stomach and he died thereafter.

To his teenage daughter and the sixth in the family, Bolanle, the trauma of daddy's gruesome death will never be erased for life in her mind.

This is because, she was able to escape through the back door and succeeded in getting to a nearby police station to inform them that gun men had invaded their house, but the Police ignored this distress call only to saunter into the compound hours later, after they had killed her dear father. The sad memory, she lamented in tears, will linger forever and I will find it hard to forgive the Police for this negligence.

Narrating how the incident



Daughters of the deceased, Bolanle and Joke

**...I sneaked through the back door with my younger sister and ran straight to the nearest Police station called Ijaiye Ojokoro. When I got there, I quickly informed them that gun men had invaded our house and that they should go and save my Dad but they ignored me saying that they do not know the owner of the house**

took place to City Scope, Bolanle, a 17-year-old SS1 student of Most High College, Jankara Ijaiye said that they were at the back of the

compound when six persons armed with gun came and stood in front of their gate. "It was around 11pm on Saturday when we noticed

them. At this stage, my father pulled out his pistol and started firing at them. Surprisingly, the gunmen just relaxed and allowed him to exhaust his bullets after which they shot him several times in the stomach and he collapsed on the ground.

"While this was going on, I sneaked through the back door with my younger sister and ran straight to the nearest Police station at Ijaiye Ojokoro. When I got there, I quickly informed them that gunmen had invaded our house and that they should go and save my Dad but they ignored me saying that they do not know the owner of the house. I pleaded severally to the policemen telling them that my Dad was shot and that he was bleeding to death, but they kept on ignoring my pleas

"It was later after one of their officers came into the station that he talked to them before they agreed to accompany me to our house. By the time we came to the house, the gunmen had gone, leaving my father in a pool of his blood and gasping for breath. He was then rushed to Lodging Medical Hospital by Oba Rilwan Oluwatombe Taiwo of Ojokoro land where every attempt was made to save his life without success.

He was referred to Orile Agege Hospital and later to Ikeja General Hospital where he gave up the ghost on Sunday morning", she stated in tears.

First son to the deceased, Olusola who was openly shedding tears while Bolanle narrated her experience also told City Scope, "My Father

was everything to us. He cared for us in a way every responsible man will care for his family.

He was peace loving and he has not offended anybody. Those who did this to him, I promise them that they will not get away with it. We are appealing to all the relevant agencies to unmask his killers because we are convinced that they were not armed robbers.

They were hired assassins because they did not take away anything in the house after pumping bullets into his stomach.

I promise them that the blood of my father which they shed without any justification will hunt them until nemesis catches up with them." One of the younger sisters to the deceased, Mrs. Comfort Egunola Edgal could not also hold emotions as she lamented and wept profusely. "Now that they have killed him, will the world and everything in it be enough for them. I do not know what my brother have done to them. I know for certain that he does not like to offend anybody, you can go and ask anybody in the street. This is evil and my God will not let them go unpunished". However, in exasperation, the younger brother to the deceased, Mr. Paul Balogun said, "I am not sorry for my brother. I am only sorry for the cowards that killed him because of the curse they have brought on themselves and their families. My brother lived a very fulfilled life. Do not weep for him, but for those that have killed him", he said.