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How a Lagos based businessman was murdered

Written by Ifeanyi Okolie
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To Makaya Egbayelo (49), a Lagos based businessman, January 21, 2009 was just like any other day. The father of five who trades on sand along Oshodi-Apapa Expressway in Lagos did not have any inkling that it was to be his last day on earth after he invited one of his cousins who, incidentally assists him in his lucrative business, to accompany him to his bank at the Trinity bus stop in Apapa. When they got to the bank, he withdrew the sum of N1.6m meant for his business and gave his cousin N6000,00.00 out of the money for a yet-to-be known purpose.

As soon as they left the bank they crossed over to the other side of the main road and boarded a vehicle to Tin Can gate. Unfortunately, when they got to the gate, they were ambushed by some armed men operating in a motorbike.

The armed robbers who were masked shot him at close range on the right hand before snatching the bag of money he was carrying. His cousin was not hit. However, as the bandits were trying to escape from the scene, the businessman recognized the one that shot him and raised alarm by calling his name. He proceeded further to lament openly by shouting, 'Prince, what have I done to you?'.

Immediately the fleeing bandits overheard him call one of them, they came back and pumped hot leads into his chest. They shot him twice and left after making sure he was dead. At this stage, his cousin fled from the scene. As he was running, some vigilant guards who watched the scene from after suspected foul play and went after him.

They succeeded in approaching where he stopped only to overhear him rebuking somebody on the phone by telling the person that what he did was not what they planned. He reportedly continued to say that Prince was not supposed to kill the businessman but to just collect his money.

At that stage, the guards pounced on him and he was arrested and taken to the police at Apapa division where on interrogation, he confessed and named all those involved in the heinous crime. It was then that they knew that he was the person that accompanied the dead businessman to the bank.

The suspect who names withheld identified reportedly named his other accomplices as: Mr Samson Omoshefumi Egbayelo, the elder brother to the slain Makaya Egbayelo narrated to Crime guard how his late brother was shot and gruesomely murdered by "those he loved, cared for and spent most of his money training in school". He also explained that armed robbery was not the only way they tried to extort money from his late brother before his death.

" This boys have been threatening my late brother's life before they finally killed him. My brother is a person with a very soft heart and these jobless boys took advantage of it. Previously, one of the suspects was staying with my brother and he was also assisting him in business. My brother was paying him over N90,000.00 monthly but he was stealing his money. When my brother caught him, he sent him out of his house and employed his younger brother. Ever since then, the man that was thrown out had been threatening my late brother claiming that he was owing their mother"



Late Makaya Egbayelo's children

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The crestfallen brother to the slain businessman also revealed that the suspects had earlier hatched plans to kidnap the slain businessman after which they extorted about N30,000.00. He further alleged, "One of the suspects is a jobless fellow, he asked his younger brother to inform them when ever my brother will go to the bank to withdraw money since once worked with one of them.

He explained that his family provided information that assisted the police in rounding up these suspects but lamented that the executor who they identified as princes who is also the step brother to two of the suspect is still at large. Unfortunately, the family of the slain businessman is also alleging that family of the suspects have been using some Police officers at Zone two, Onikan to intimidate them to withdraw the case out of court but he vowed that justice must take it's course. "In fact, you could not believe that when we were preparing for the burial of our slain brother, some policemen who claimed to be attached to the Zone two Criminal Investigations Department, Onikan came to invite us for threatening somebody's life and murder.

"It was on the 5th of March, 2007 when we were preparing for our late brother's burial. one Inspector of police Nuhu Ibrahim came to our house with a letter of invitation. It was stated in the latter that Mr Samson and three others were petitioned with Threat to life and murder by one Mr Janet Ojoade through her lawyer Mr Ebunola Ewonowo and they should report on or before 10th of March, 2009.

We reported at Zonal CID at about 8 am . When I read through the petition, I discovered that I and my brother has been accused of killing my own brother. You can imagine how some body who was the compliant is now the accused. We were detained until 7pm and were bailed by three sureties each. I know all this are ways of making us pull out of court. I am assuring them that we will not bow to any form of intimidation. All we want is for the law to take it's due cause. Those who killed my brother should be punished accordingly".



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