

Crime Alert

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INFIDELITY!

Man, 27, stabs friend to death over girlfriend

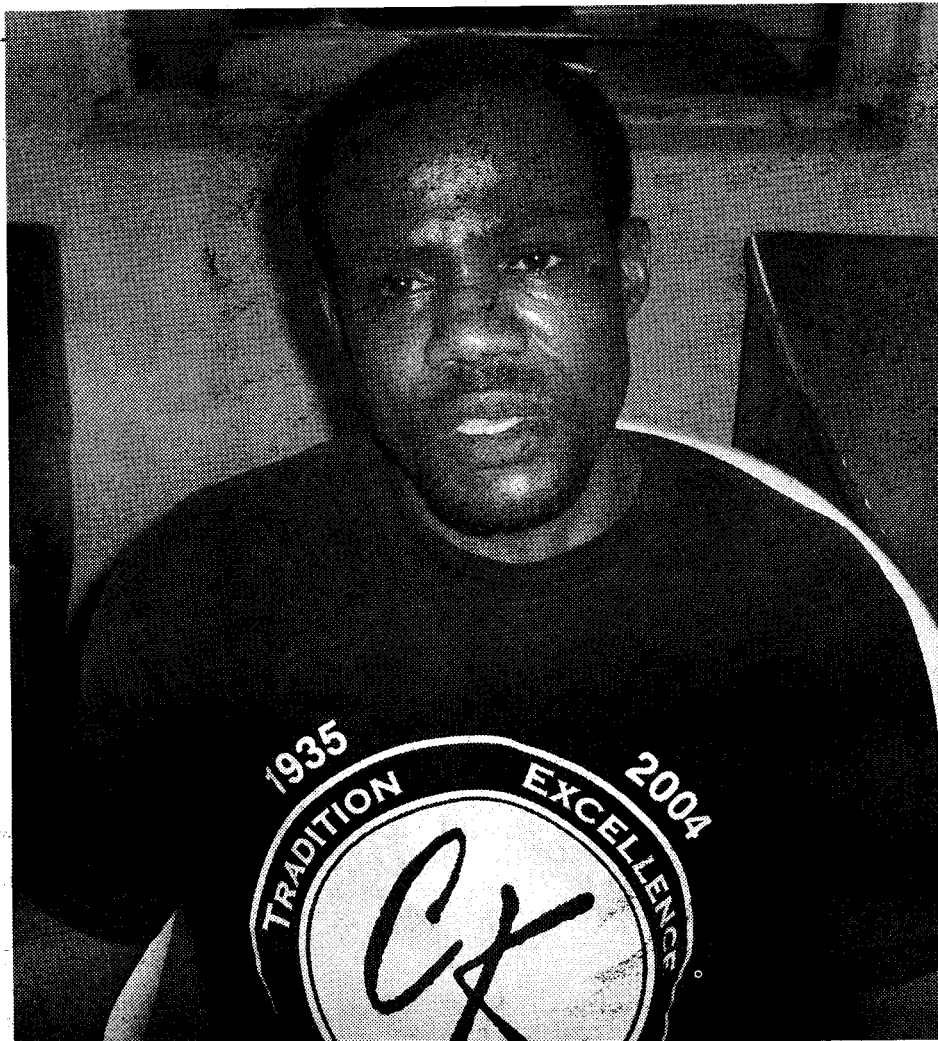
By Albert Akpor

OKECHUKWU Agbanama, the 27 year-old Imo state born interior decorator may spend substantial part of his life behind bars except there is a divine intervention. At the homicide section of the dread state criminal investigation Department (SCID) Panti street, Yaba Lagos the fair complexioned remorseful Okechukwu is presently telling detectives all he knew about the circumstances that led to the death of his age-long friend, Ibemesi Udoka. And because a dead does not talk, crack detectives attached to the section are finding claims by Oke as he is popularly called, that it was the deceased that launched the offensive on him first to be the truth. If found guilty, he may be charged for murder.

Friendship turns sower

The duo of Oke and the deceased Crime Alert scooped had lived together as good friends at No.16, Orison street Ilemba Ajagbandi, a suburb in Lagos until one Judith allegedly came in between them. At the police custody Oke narrated all he could remember amidst tears first between him and the deceased and second, the girl that caused the tragedy. According to him, "Udoka and I were very good and inseparable friends until he introduced Judith to me. He said the girl was his in law, that is the her late elder sister

was married to his elder brother and asked if I like her I could go ahead and date her. He even told me further that Judith is a very good girl, good enough for a wife if I cared. I thanked Udoka and promised to study her first before talking about marriage. That was how Judith and I started dating; unknown to me that the affair did not go down well with Udoka. I started noticing certain traits of unfriendliness in him which I found difficult to fathom. He reduced the number of visits to my apartment and would not pick my calls as usual. I tried talking things over with him but he said there was nothing wrong with our relationship and that he just need to be on his won for the time being. However, the worst happened on Tuesday December 8, 2009 while I was in my room with Judith. On that day, I had returned from work dog-tired and decided to sleep immediately. I could not even eat what Judith prepared for me. Suddenly at about 12 mid-night, I was jolted from a deep sleep by the bang on my door. Initially, I thought thieves had invaded our building and made to take cover having brought out the little money I had in case they came demanding for money. Seconds later, I saw figure of a man wielding a broken bottler and I was scared to death only for the figure to screamed out my names saying he had come for me. From the voice, I was able to detect that it was that of



Okechukwu Agbanama (Suspect)

Udoka. I switch on the light and discovered that he successfully pulled down the door. I jumped up and said so Udoka its you, what happened that you could not wait till the next morning? But he said we had to settle things once and for all that night. It was then he accused me of dating his girlfriend Judith. I was confused the

more because this was a girl that was introduced to me the same man who is now accusing me of snatching his girl friend. Before I could say another word he chased after

furiously and dealt severally deadly blows on me while Judith took to her heels. The more I tried collecting the bottle from him, the more he inflicted more cuts on me. I screamed for help but none

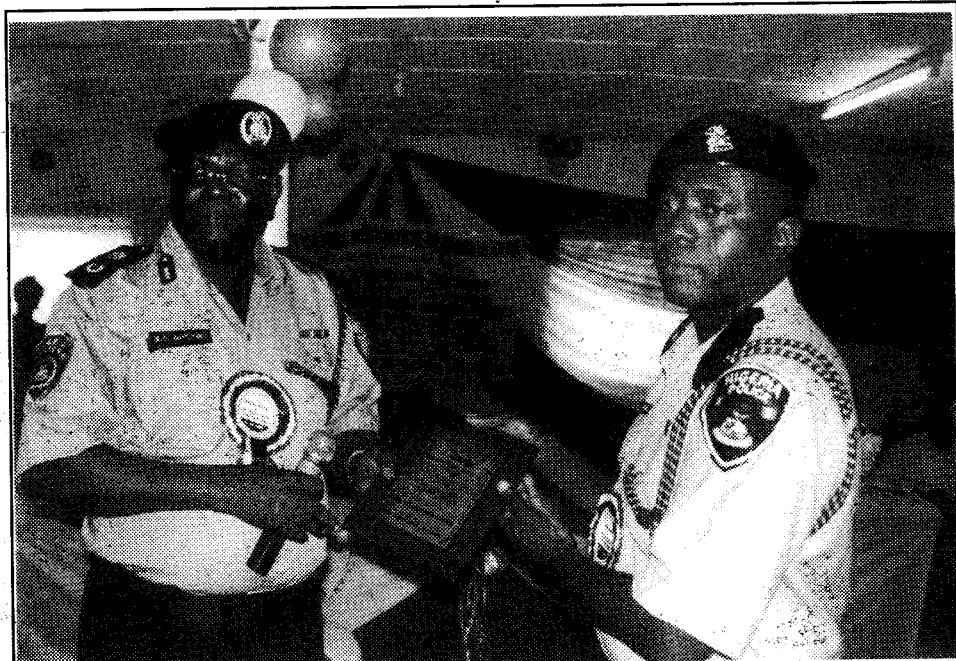
came.

Self defence

Then suddenly I was able to push over from and stood up and reached out for a kitchen knife for the purpose of defence so that I could escape from the room but it went into his neck and blood started gushing out like hell. I was equally bleeding from my wounds but his was much and he slumped. I screamed for help but every had locked their doors and would not come out. I grabbed my towel and tied it round his neck with the intension to arrest the bleeding but it bled the more. Eventually a neighbor opened his door and assisted to take him to the nearby clinic but he died on the way. I did not mean to kill him, honestly. You can even see marks of injuries he inflicted on me. In short, if I had known that Judith would made me a murderer I would have opted against Udoka's advice to date her."

Police reacts

However, no matter how convincing Oke's testimony may sound, the police through its public relations officer, Mr. Frank Mba said he has a case to answer. According to him, only a court of competent jurisdiction can decide whether Oke is culpable or not. He said the question is not who first struck but the strike that caused the death of the other.



Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Marvel Akpoyibo (l), presenting an award of meritorious service in Crime Control to the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Festac Town, Mr. Nwababo Usman, during Crime Reports Association of Nigeria annual lecture and award.

HINTS FOR CRIME PREVENTION ON A JOURNEY

1. Don't board a Taxi with strangers they may be robbers.
2. Avoid giving lifts to unknown persons, you may lose your car or life.
3. Avoid giving lifts to unknown persons, it could spell disaster.
4. Avoid spending Nights with free women.
5. Avoid sudden and friendly offers of soft drinks, Beer, Fruits and Food from people unknown to you, you can be drugged.

HINTS FOR CRIME PREVENTION AT HOME:

1. When watching Television or Listening to the Radio or Entertaining Guests especially at Night, make sure all windows and Door are securely locked.
2. Lock all the extension doors and windows when leaving the house. Do not keep keys under mats or other obvious places.
3. Do not encourage your domestic servants to harbour unknown persons, they could be thieves studying the position of things in your premises.
4. Person who call in the guise of metre readers, salesmen etc must show identity cards.
5. Do not open your doors to unknown

- persons and teach your household to do same.
6. If the key to any door, sideboard, wardrobe is lost, replace the lock at once.
7. Screen domestic staff before employment and obtain their photographs.
8. Restrict information about your absence from home to trusted neighbours.
9. Remove only object which can aid an intruder into your house eg. Ladder.
10. Report suspected persons in your neighbourhood to the police as such persons could be criminals.

HINTS FOR CRIME PREVENTION FOR BUSINESS TRANSACTION:

1. If someone introduces a new business to you which attracts large profit margin, watch out he could be a dupe.
2. Avoid sudden and friendly offers of soft drinks, Beer, Fruits and Food from people unknown to you, you could be drugged.
3. Do not keep large sum of money in the house or store, they are better kept in the banks.
4. Shun offers by money doublers for nobody can double money else they will double for themselves.
5. Do not engage in illegal foreign exchange transactions you may be sold fake currency notes.