

Vanguard

Land grabbers on rampage in Lagos, kill one

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By Evelyn Usman

LAGOS—Land grabbers, popularly known as *Omo-Onile*, went on rampage at Aimasiko Street, Ekor Road in Abule Egba area of Lagos, in a bid to forcefully collect an unspecified amount for a property sold in the area, leaving a 30-year-old-man dead.

The street urchins, numbering over 10, stormed the street at about 10a.m., Sunday, to demand a share of payment from the sale of a property. But report said the agent had left before their arrival.

Irked by the agent's action, which they described as intentional, the hoodlums, most of who were said to be members of different confraternities, vented their anger on anyone in sight.

They reportedly used dangerous objects such as broken bottles and knives, in the process of which Samuel, who was reportedly on his way to his workshop, was stabbed.

Shop owners left their wares at the mercy of the rampaging thugs. The shops were still under lock yesterday, as the owners were reportedly warned not to open by members of a local vigilante group.

Eyewitness account

An eyewitness, who simply gave his name as Olatana Sarah, said: "Samuel was an easy-going person. Two of the *omo-Onile* pushed him for daring to come near them. They said he was interfering.

"Before he could regain his balance, one of them stabbed him in the neck and waist. While they were at it, a Pastor around the area appealed to them to leave the man alone but they poured mud water on him.

"His pregnant wife and three-year-old baby were informed shortly after the incident occurred. Had help come early, perhaps he might have survived it.

He was later rushed to the hospital after his assailants left, where doctors said he died as a result of much loss of blood."

Police sources at Oke-Odo Division, where the case was reported, told *Vanguard* that two persons had been arrested in connection with the killing. But the man that allegedly stabbed the deceased was said to be on the run.

Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Joe Offor, said he had no details of the incident.

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