

# CrimeAlert

## I watched helplessly as thugs beat my husband to death — widow

By Evelyn Usman

**A**n unkind fate like a bull in a China shop recently befell Mrs Kemi Tosun, a Beninoise based in Nigeria, following the gruesome murder of her 40-year-old husband by some thugs in Ibeju Lekki area of Lagos.

Kemi, who looks a shadow of herself, left her home country in search of a better living condition in Nigeria about ten years ago. Along the line, she met her country man, Sunday, and a relationship that snowballed into marriage which produced three children ensued.

However, the romance between her and her husband went into extinction like a candle in the wind last month, following an altercation between late Sunday and some thugs, over a broken plank. This ugly development has now saddled Kemi with the responsibility of caring for their three children alone.

The deceased, a guard who was overseeing an uncompleted building which also served as a shelter for the family, also had a motorcycle which he used for commercial purpose.

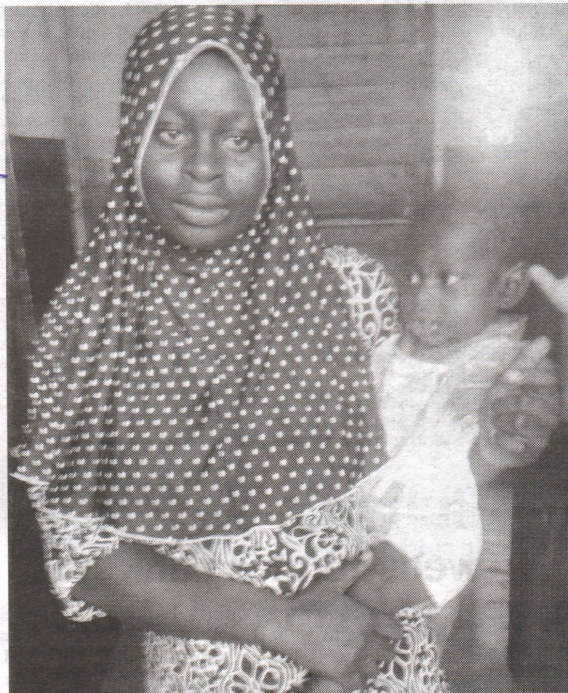
**Death signal:** Crime Alert gathered that three family friends visited Tosun, penultimate Sunday. The visitors were said to have waited till dark to allow the heavy down pour subside.

Trouble reared its ugly head when the late guard and his widow were seeing their visitors off. They were confronted with flood which made the road impassable for the motorbike they moved with.

### Reality of the tragedy

An alternative route was suggested by the deceased who was conversant with all nooks and crannies of the area, unknown to him that the suggestion was only an invitation to an unprepared end. Still battling with the reality of the tragedy that has changed her entire course, the widow said: "When we got to the route, we discovered that the bridge was built with wood. It links one to the other side of the road and was used for commercial purpose.

"But as my late husband and his visitors lifted the motorcycle unto the bridge, one of the wooden planks broke. Immediately, one of the operators rushed to where we were and ordered my husband to repair the broken section. My husband quickly called his sister to bring a hammer and some nails from the house which she did. But while he was trying to work on the broken section, another agbero (social miscreant) came and directed that my husband should be taught a lesson for hampering their job. He lifted a plank and



•Mrs Tosun (the widow and her baby)

attempted to hit my husband with it but I stood on his way, and was begging him. One of them picked a phone and called their

colleagues. Before we knew it, the whole place was in disarray and their colleagues came and destroyed everywhere, including

our house. I begged them to leave my husband alone but they would not listen. They kept hitting him with planks and any dangerous weapon they could lay their hands on.

"My husband tried to escape but

***I rushed to where he was battling to get up from the flood, lifted him and strapped him at my back, with an attempt to leave the scene. But they attacked me also and broke my head in the process***

he ended up falling inside the flood. I rushed to where he was battling to get up from the flood water, lifted him and strapped him to my back, with an attempt to leave the scene. They attacked

me also and broke my head in the process. "When they were convinced that he was motionless, they left him. I lifted my late husband and rushed him to the hospital where he was confirmed dead", she said in tears.

**Six suspects arrested:** Crime Alert gathered that detectives from the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department, SCIID, Yaba, have arrested six suspected miscreants, including the prime suspect, Ibrahim Ismaila (34) in connection with the killing of the Republic of Benin guard.

However during an interaction with the prime suspect who hails from Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos state, he stated that the attack was done by some thugs.

### Interaction with the prime suspect

He admitted to have contacted just a friend but maintained that the incident was hijacked by thugs.

According to him "I only called one person on phone but before I knew it, I saw other faces I did not know. I only called the person to come and witness the repair of the plank so that I won't be blamed for its destruction.

When I saw the crowd, I called a policeman that I knew to come and save the situation but he said he wasn't on duty. I even warned the person I contacted on phone to leave the okada man (deceased) alone. I was even the one who took the deceased to the hospital. It was not my intention to kill him", he said remorsefully.

As at Tuesday, the suspects were remanded at the Kirikiri Medium Security Prison over their inability to meet up the bail conditions.

## Fraudster hacks cleric's account, withdraws N700,000

By Chinenyeh Ozor, Nsukka

**F**EAR has gripped bank customers in the University town of Nsukka, Enugu State, following activities of fraudsters who have perfected the evil act of hacking into bank customers' accounts to make away with huge sums of money.

The situation has degenerated to the extent that some customers are now closing their accounts at major banks in the area. Surprisingly, most of the affected customers fail to report to the appropriate authorities for prompt action while the banks, on their part, tried to exonerate themselves.

**How the bubble burst:** The bubble, however, burst recently, after the fraudsters succeeded in withdrawing N700,000 from the savings account of a clergyman in the town, forcing him to raise alarm.

The clergyman, Rev. Chijioke Onyebuchi Anyaegbunam, an Archdeacon of the Anglican Communion, at Ozalla, Nkanu LGA, Enugu state, is a retiree of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

### Statement of account

He reportedly lodged his

retirement benefits in his account with a second generation bank in the area where one Arinze Peter, allegedly hacked into.

According to the statement of account made available, Peter withdrew the said amount in three instalments.

Rev. Onyebuchi who spoke with Crime Alert at Nsukka Urban Police division where he lodged the complaint, said he discovered that his savings account had been tampered with when he went to make a withdrawal.

He was informed by the bank that there was no money in his account. This compelled him to demand for his statement of account only to discover that the said Arinze Peter, on September 16, 2016, withdrew N300,000 and later on that same day, made another withdrawal of N200,000. Then the next day, September 17, 2016, the same name withdrew N188,000 from the account and rendered the account empty.

**No ATM, No On-line:** The Anglican priest explained that he neither used ATM card nor transacted online banking with the bank since he opened the account,

adding that he only went to the banking hall to carry out all his transactions.

He expressed surprise that his account could be hacked into when he carried out all his transactions by himself.

He said he petitioned the bank over the withdrawals on September 19, 2016 before reporting the matter to the police to investigate. He further pointed out that the bank replied the petition in writing saying that investigation was in process in respect of the issues raised in the petition, promising to revert to him soon with the position of the bank after conclusion of investigation.

**Bank manager reacts:** Contacted for comment, the branch manager of the bank situated inside the university campus, Mr

Chekwube Ossai, declined comment, saying that he was not competent to speak on behalf of the bank. He advised **Crime Alert** to apply in writing to the headquarters through the branch before anybody would speak on the matter.

### Police source speaks

A competent senior police officer who pleaded anonymity, however, said that a case of fraud concerning the account of Rev. Onyebuchi with Diamond Bank UNN branch was being investigated by the division, saying that there were similar matters like that.

He noted, however, that Rev. Onyebuchi was the only customer who was bold enough to question the fraudulent withdrawals on his personal account with the bank at their UNN branch.



•The University of Nigeria, Nsukka