

# Gunmen shoot 60-yr-old Lagos socialite, Rasak Jikoli dead

By Nimat Otori

A Lagos socialite, Mr Rasak Jikoli, 60, was reportedly shot dead by unknown gunmen in front of his house at Jikoli Court, Unity Estate, Badore, Ajah area of Lagos.

The incident, as gathered, occurred a few days after he alerted policemen at the Zone 2 Police Command, Onikan, that some persons were after his life.

His assailants stormed the area at about 3 pm last Sunday, in a tricycle, while the deceased was driving into the estate, in the company of one of his relatives.

It was gathered that the late businessman was nominated as the traditional ruler of Badore, by the Jikoli family, after the demise of the former Baale, Saliu Muraina Jikoli, in June 2020. His name, according to his family, was forwarded to the Lagos State Government accompanied by a certificate of nomination by the family.

Trouble, however, erupted after another candidate said to have been nominated by a group of persons, who claimed to be kingmakers, was allegedly granted a certificate by the Eti-Osa Local Government, as the Baale of Badore, without authorisation from the state government.

Lawyer to the deceased, Olarewaju Aiyedun, disclosed that the matter was before Justice Alakija of the Lagos High Court sitting in TBS, "where we obtained the order to maintain the status quo ante bellum, which infuriated his opponents."

His widow, Tofunmi, who is yet to come to terms with the rude shock of her husband's death, said: "I was in the kitchen when I was called. I ran out and saw the lifeless body of my husband, who left the house 15 minutes earlier, with a promise to be back soon."

"On that Sunday, some people, who wanted to buy a piece of land came to visit him. He took them to the site but the person did not like the land. About 15 to 20 minutes later, as he was returning home, some residents said they sighted some strange faces around the community. I don't know why the security guards did not challenge them."

"As he approached the house, he was attacked. The vehicle fell into a ditch. We were told that the people who did the job came in a *Keke Marwa*. I heard the gunshots. One of the assailants asked him 'so you want to be the baale' before he was shot. Not done, they used a rock to scatter his head to be sure he was dead."

"I don't know who to particularly point to. But he had several enemies. He was actively involved in a chieftaincy title tussle and he got a favourable ruling recently. Even if he offended anyone, he should not be murdered."