

How I escaped from kidnappers den — 14-yr-old hawker

By Dayo Johnson

AKURE—A 14-year-old JSS 2 student, Felix Adekunle, kidnapped in Owo area of Ondo State, has narrated how he escaped from the kidnappers' den after he was abducted while hawking slippers after school hours.

Adekunle, who spoke with newsmen in Akure at the office of the state security outfit, codenamed Amotekun, said an old woman whose son was beheaded gave him N500 transport fare after he escaped.

The victim, a student of Furaben International College, Owo, was hawking slippers along Okemapo Road in Owo, when he was abducted by three men last Monday.

He said the old woman, was kidnapped with his murdered son.

According to him, "it happened while I was selling slippers after school. I decided to come back to the market for my sales. I walked through Okemapo road, which is a shorter route to the market, where I saw three men that told me that some of my goods had fallen off.

"I quickly dropped my goods and went after the allegedly fallen wares. I got there and couldn't find anything after which the men immediately

dragged me into a vehicle and I became unconscious.

"I later found myself in a dilapidated bungalow in the thick forest. I saw a woman crying with her hands tied backwards sitting by a headless body of a young person.

"I asked her who was the person and she responded that it was her child. At that point, I was hearing the men's voices inside the house. The woman told me to remove the rope she was tied up with and we fled together.

"While fleeing, the woman fell. She called me back and gave me N500 and said I should keep running and never look back. I heard gunshots from the house where I was running, which made me run faster.

"When I burst out of the bush, I saw some people selling bread by the roadside and narrated my ordeals to them. They called the police who did not respond and later got the Amotekun who responded swiftly and took me to their office.

Speaking on the incident, the state Commander of Amotekun, Adetunji Adeleye, said men of the Intelligence Unit of the security outfit rescued the 14-year-old boy.

Adeleye, while handing over the boy

to his mother at the command's headquarters in Akure, said: "We got a distress call that some vehicles drove recklessly along Benin/Owo road. While tracing the vehicle we later ran into the young boy, who said he was running away from three kidnappers from Owo.

"The victim also explained that the only thing he could remember was a Camry car without a number plate and having tinted glasses. He added that he became unconscious immediately he was pushed into the car. He explained to us that the area was isolated as he could not call on anyone.

"We took him away from the danger zone to our office where he narrated his experience."

Mother lauds state Amotekun

Speaking, the mother of the victim, 41-year-old Mrs Abosede Adekunle, said she searched for her son who did not return home throughout Monday after hawking for the day.

Abosede said she thought that his son misplaced the proceeds from his sales hence his refusal to return home.

She said: "I was surprised to get a call from the state Amotekun that I should come and pick my son that was rescued from the kidnappers.