

Cultists hack man to death over N3,000 debt

By Evelyn Usman

Twenty-two year old Ifidon Victor, laid in the pool of his blood, on the floor of a private hospital in Benin city, the Edo State capital, waiting for nurses to wheel him into emergency ward to be treated.

Then, all of a sudden, some armed young men rushed into the hospital and allegedly beat him to coma before dashing out unmolested.

For four months, perpetrators of the dastardly act have been on the run until they were arrested recently by operatives of the Force Intelligence Response Team FIRT.

Their arrest followed a petition written by a relative of the deceased based in Abuja, to the Inspector-General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba, who directed the FIRT to go on the trail of the fleeing suspects.

During investigation, the suspects: Josaiah Okon, Lucky Alabi, Anthony Aigbodion, Victor Aigbodion and Aikhonrin Godwin, who confessed to be members of same cult group - Vikings, also disclosed that the deceased was killed during a fight over N3,000 debt.

Genesis

They narrated their respective roles in the death of Victor.

For 23-year-old Josaiah Okon, the prime suspect, he traced the genesis of the murder saga to when a friend of the deceased, identified simply as Sylvester, took a loan of N3,000 from him, with a promise to pay back with N1,000 interest, in six months time.

According to the mason who said he left his base in Owan, Edo state to Benin owing to pressure from his cult members, "Sylvester approached me for a loan of N3,000 last year. He said he needed it to effect repairs on his okada. I gave him on the condition that he would pay back with N1,000 interest.

"But he never refunded the money. He did not even call to apologise for the delay. When I eventually met him, he gave me his MP3 Bluetooth speaker to hold pending when he would pay back the loan.

"Hours later, he brought only N1,000 and demanded for his MP3 but I refused to give him. I insisted rather, that I would only release

it when he paid the balance.

"By midnight Sylvester and three of his friends stormed the house and started beating everyone in sight. He demanded to have his MP3 back. I had to come out from where I hid it and handed him the MP3 when it became apparent that my roommates could not bear the attack.

"In relation, owner of the house Alabi, who is also a Vikings, was astonished because Sylvester is a member of same cult group.



Accompanied by some other members, we decided to go for a reprisal attack.

On our way, we saw Sylvester and some of his friends advancing towards us to continue

from where they stopped. Luckily we were armed with cutlasses. We overpowered them. One of those who accompanied Sylvester, Victor, sustained machete cut in his hand. He was rushed to the hospital.

"We were not satisfied because Sylvester, who caused the trouble was not hurt. We mobilised again and went to the hospital in search for Sylvester only to meet Victor bleeding on the floor unattended to.

"Our intent was not to kill Victor but to ensure Sylvester who caused the trouble, sustained injury. Police should understand that the fight was in self defence, he said.

For Alabi, he said he was angry with Sylvester for destroying his property when he was not the one that collected his MP3.

He said "Josaiah is my friend, he only came to spend the night in my house. We went to the hospital to confirm that Sylvester was really wounded, only to find Victor on the floor wounded". He however said they did not attack him at the hospital, but that news of his demise filtered in two days later and that they had to flee to evade arrest.

NIS elevates 98 senior officers

•PCO Ikoyi, Bewaji, among 70 officers promoted to CI

By Evelyn Usman

Ninety-eight senior officers of the Nigeria Immigration Service, NIS have been elevated to their new ranks following their successful performance in a promotion exercise conducted in December 2021.

This was contained in a letter from the Civil Defence, Correctional, Fire and Immigration Services Board vide CDCFIB/NIS/2021/PE/640/VOL.1/1, dated May 20, 2022.

A breakdown of the promoted officers showed that four Assistant Comptrollers General were promoted to the rank of Deputy Comptroller-General; 24 Comptrollers were elevated to the rank of Assistant Comptroller General of Immigration, while 70 Deputy Comptrollers were promoted to the rank of Comptroller of Immigration.

Those promoted to the rank of Deputy Comptroller-General of Immigration were: Josephine Chisara Kwazu, Modupe Oshoke Anyalechi, Muhammad Aminu Muhammad and Ajoke Oluremi Talabi.

Officers promoted to the rank of Assistant Comptroller General of Immigration included: the Comptroller, Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Ikeja Lagos, Nandap Kemi Nanna; Principal



Staff Officer to the acting Comptroller General, Ahmed Bauchi Aliyu; the Comptroller in charge of Migration at the Service Headquarters, Abdullahi Usman Musa; Comptroller of Ogun State Command, Amao Kolawole Michael; the Comptroller in-charge of Gender & Staff Welfare, Alawode Nuratu Betty and Comptroller of Ekiti State Command, Acholonu Alphonsus, among others.

Others promoted to the rank of Comptroller of Immigration included: Adesokan Adeola, attached to the

Training and Staff Development Division, Service Headquarters; Bagari Ahmad Dauda, of the Visa and Residency Directorate, Service Headquarters.

Others are: Passport Control Officer, Ikoyi Passport Office Lagos, Bewaji Abolupe Oladoyin, Passport Control Officer, Kano Passport Office, Kila LimanSani, and Onuora Constance Nwama, among others.

While congratulating the newly promoted officers, the acting Comptroller General of Immigration, Isah Jere Idris, appreciated the Federal Government for considering them worthy of promotion, even as he urged the officers to continue to demonstrate a high level of commitment and efficiency in service delivery to justify their promotion.

Meanwhile, news of the promotion of the PCO Ikoyi, Bewaji Abolupe Oladoyin, was greeted with mixed feelings by officers. Although they expressed joy at her elevation, at the same time, they felt unhappy that she might be redeployed.

Some of them said she had transformed the Passport office beyond expectation. One of them said, "she is a leader indeed. She is not the type that sits in the office all day. She would go round the offices to ensure those seeking passports are attended to and would ask them if they had any problem. She ensured things are done accordingly and always puts officers on their toes. We will all miss her when she leaves", one of the officers who spoke on the condition of anonymity said.