

Couple, one other in Police net for killing hotelier

By James Ogunnaike

2 A couple, Larry Adebayo Adewumi and Okereke Olufunmilayo, has been arrested by operatives of Ogun State Police Command, alongside one Adebowale Sanni, over the abduction and killing of the Director of Rolak Hotel, Ijebu Ode, Abayomi Smith, after collecting N15 million ransom.

The State Police Command Public Relations Officer, Abimbola Oyeyemi, disclosed that Smith was kidnapped on September 28, 2020, at about 7.30am, at Anifowose Estate, Igbaba, Ijebu Ode, by some gunmen.

Oyeyemi said: "On receiving the information about the kidnap, men of the anti-kidnapping unit were mobilized to commence an investigation, but all efforts to get the victim out of captivity proved abortive, even though the victim's family paid a ransom of N15 million to the abductors.

"Since then, police operatives have not relented in their efforts to fish out those behind the devilish act.

"The efforts of the SP Taiwo Opadiran-led team yielded positive results in September this year when they got wind of the plan by the hoodlums to strike again, this time, the wife and son of Otunba Ajayi Smith were their target.

"The team, having got the intelligence report, embarked on technical surveillance for the suspects, consequence upon which one of them was traced to Ikeji Arakeji in Osun State, where the 55 years old Adebowale Sanni was apprehended.

"On interrogation, he confessed to having been on the trail of Yeye Olusola Roseline Ajayi, the wife of their earlier victim, Otunba Ajayi Smith to kidnap her, on the order of Larry Adebayo Adewumi, the ring

leader, whose wife Olufunmilayo happened to be an employee of Otunba Ajayi Smith.

"He confessed further that it was Larry who described the location of the victim's hotel and his other business outfits to him with instruction that if they succeeded in kidnapping the woman and her son, the two of them must be killed after collecting ransom in order not to leave any trait, just as they did to her husband two years ago.

"His confession led to the arrest of Larry's wife, Olufunmilayo, who was a manager at the victim's building materials shops.

"Larry himself was arrested three days after, he initially denied having anything to do with the kidnap of Otunba Abayomi Ajayi Smith, but when he came face-to-face with Adebowale Sanni, his accomplice, he knew that the game was up.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that Larry, who is an indigene

of Ilesha Osun State, used to be a fraudster before he graduated into full-time kidnapping business.

"His modus operandi was to scout for a rich victim, after which he will mobilise the gang working for him to go after such person.

"He got full information about Otunba Ajayi Smith through his wife, Olufunmilayo, who was an employee of the man.

"Further investigation revealed that Larry has two bank accounts where he used to keep money realized from his criminal activities."

In one of the accounts, with number 0010913206, domicile in JAIZ Bank, the sum of N34,953, 455 was discovered there in, while he has the sum of N4, 576, 846, in another account with Access Bank.

A 2014 model Toyota Highlander was also recovered from him.

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