Lagos ladies accuse cab driver of robbery, rape

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At least four ladies have narrated their ordeal in the hands of a notorious e-hailing cab driver who they accused of serially robbing female passengers and sexually assaulting them.  
  
The driver was said to have concealed his identity using names such as Femi, Benjamin and Samuel, and allegedly preyed on stranded female commuters whom he had lured into his vehicle.  
  
Some of his victims who spoke to our correspondent disclosed that Femi often operated around midnight or early morning, locked the car doors, and threatened female passengers with weapons such as a gun, a knife and even acid.  
  
Sunday PUNCH gathered that the police had yet to act on the complaints filed by some of the victims who reported the matter.  
  
Speaking to our correspondent, a digital marketer, Mary Okene, said she and her colleague were robbed when they entered the suspect’s car while returning from work around 5am on April 5.  
  
According to her, the ride she had earlier booked had an accident at the Civic Centre and Femi was said to have stopped to offer them a ride to the Mainland.  
  
She said, “On our way, we negotiated the fees and he conversed with us. Suddenly, when we got to the Third Mainland Bridge, he parked, brought out a knife and told us to bring our bags.  
  
“He told us he’s not a cab man and that this is what he does and that he preys on sex workers because they did something crazy to him. We told him we were not prostitutes. I showed him some of my work gadgets like a light and a tripod as proof. He said he wasn’t convinced.  
  
“He then put his hand under my dress, asking if I wore underwear. I removed his hand and told him I wore a tight. That was how he slapped me and pointed the knife at me. He then grabbed the breast of the second lady with me, who is my Human Resources Manager. We kept begging. He collected our bags, then he returned them and told us to bring our phones.  
  
“I was trying to send a text when he threatened to pour acid on my face. He then said he liked me and he wanted to rape me. He told the HR to open the door and run but the doors were locked. He said I should start undressing. I started crying and begging furiously. He also had a dildo in his car.”  
  
Okene said the suspect robbed her and the HR of a total sum of N100,000, adding that when she reported the case at Ifako police station, the officer there exclaimed, “This man again!”  
  
Also narrating her ordeal, another victim who gave her name simply as Isi said she encountered the suspect on January 26, 2024 when she booked an e-hailing cab from Ikeja City Mall to Berger.  
  
“When he came, we got into a discussion and he talked about his wife. Then, he started asking me out, but I refused, citing that he already had a wife. Later, he brought out a very sharp dagger and gave me three hot slaps for refusing his advances,” she said.  
  
Isi further disclosed that after a while, Femi parked his car and asked her to take off all her clothes.  
  
She alleged that the driver began touching her inappropriately and asked if she was a prostitute, adding that he was out to avenge what a sex worker did to him.  
  
“He threatened that if I didn’t behave well, he would kill me and my colleagues would do nothing more than come pick up my body by the roadside the next morning.  
  
“This was after he had strangled me to the point where I had felt my last breath leave my body. After robbing me of my iPhone 11 and 6, he told me to get down from the car naked, after which he zoomed off,” she said.  
  
That same month, two friends, Temi and Rachel, who also ordered an e-hailing ride from Lagos Island to the Mainland, said the suspect picked up an accomplice who assisted him in robbing them.  
  
“He parked on the Third Mainland Bridge and brought out a gun and knife. He took everything on us – phones, wigs and money – and left us on the bridge.  
  
“When we reported to the police, they said they would work on it but we never even got any feedback,” Temi said.  
  
An event hostess, Peculiar Daniels, also claimed she and her friends were robbed by Femi on October 2024.  
  
She added that the cab driver had a bit of a different look from the pictures that have circulated on the internet.  
  
“He said he was going to work at Berger. All this time, his car windows were down so we didn’t notice that it was tinted. Everything was fine until he climbed the Third Mainland Bridge and reduced his speed.  
  
“Suddenly, he parked and put the car on lock. When I tried to open the door, he brought out a gun, knife and acid. He said if I didn’t calm down, he would pour the acid on me.  
  
“I had never seen a gun in my life so the sight of it made me freeze. He asked us to give him all the money we had with us. I was trying to send my location to my sister when he dragged my phone from my hand. He then pointed the gun at my friends and asked for their phones,” Daniels disclosed.  
  
She further said the suspect took all the cash she had which was more than N20,000, her new iPhone 13 Pro Max and N30,000 from each of her friends.  
  
Another victim, who gave her name as Victoria, said the suspect robbed her of her phone, money and ATM card somewhere close to Omole, adding that she experienced the biggest trauma during the ordeal.  
  
The spokesman for the Lagos State Police command, Benjamin Hundeyin, in an interview with Sunday PUNCH, disclosed that Femi’s latest victim could not have had her experience last weekend because the suspect was arrested last month by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency for a drug-related offence.  
  
He said, “We approached NDLEA with some of the victims who identified that he was the one but we couldn’t take him away from the NDLEA. They have to finish their investigation and prosecution before they hand him over to us if he is going to walk free from their case.  
  
“If not, the day they are taking him to court to prosecute him, we will also go with our case so they will prosecute him for all of his offences simultaneously. We are waiting for the NDLEA to finish their prosecution”  
  
Also speaking with our correspondent, the spokesman of the NDLEA, Femi Babafemi, disclosed that the suspect was not the same person in their custody but a look-alike.  
  
“Benjamin (Lagos PPRO) got in touch with me at a point. He said that some women saw pictures of somebody they thought or believed had been robbing or rapping them. We organised an arrangement for the police to bring the women to come and identify him but he is not the same person because he was brought before them and they were not sure he was the person.  
  
“From the report I got after he was paraded before the women, it is obvious whoever it is must still be on the loose. I am guessing he is a look-alike because when he was brought face-to-face with the women, they couldn’t confirm he is the one.”