

SILENCED VOICE

Written by

Olaide Nurat Mohammed

Story by

Celestine Oyeghe
Olaide Nurat Mohammed
Ahmed Ilesanmi
Olaleye Idowu
Papa Adewale Olalekan

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FADE IN:

1.

1 E/I. GIDIZEN UNIVERSITY - DAY. 1

An aerial view of the school. Students are seen entering the building.

An attractive, young girl, MABEL (20's), approaches the entrance into the

2 CLASSROOM. 2

Mabel is seen taking notes as other students are busy conversing amongst themselves.

3 LATER. 3

It's closing hour, students heads out from the classroom, Mabel walks through the hallway to meet a WOMAN(30s) cleaning the floor.

Mabel helps her to clean as the woman sits on a nearby chair looking tired.

4 EXT. ROADSIDE - EVENING. 4

Mabel is seen laying on the road, she is all bruised as she struggles in pain.

5 MOMENTS LATER. 5

Some people quickly rushes to her aid as they lift her away.

FADE TO BLACK.

Words flash on the screen to reveal the title.

"SILENCED VOICE"

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

6 INT. HOSPITAL I.C.U ROOM - NIGHT. 6

Mabel lay on the bed in her critical state, a doctor walks in with her mother (the cleaner), she's distraught after seeing her daughter.

DOCTOR

MRS LARA..We've tried everything to stabilize her but her condition is very critical.

MRS LARA

(Folds her hands)

Doctor please save my daughter.

DOCTOR

We've done the necessary examination and send the semen samples recovered to the lab..I would advise you to report the case to the authority, because this is not just a rape case but also an attempted murder, her vital signs are unstable, it's out of their normal limits due to heavy blood loss, we're keeping her under observation but I hate to break this to you..her chances of survival are very slim.

Mrs Lara looks on in disbelief.

7

MOMENTS LATER.

7

MRS Lara and a young girl, JANE (20s) are seated beside Mabel's bed.

JANE

Mrs Lara.. don't worry, nothing will happen to my friend, she'll be alright.

MRS LARA

She was fine when she left the school, how did--

Mabel regains consciousness.

MRS LARA (CONT'D)

Mabel!! thank God my child is awake.. Jane quickly go call the doctor.

Jane stomps out of the room.

MRS LARA (CONT'D)

My child..are you alright, who did this to you?

Mabel is weak as she whispers to her mother's ear.

Mabel's condition becomes worse as she shivers intensely, Jane and the doctor comes in, the nurses send Mrs Lara and Jane out of the room.

Mrs Lara desperately tries to get information but the nurse wouldn't say anything.

after a while, the doctor walks out, looks at her sadly and shake his head, we hear as her heart races, she looks into the I.C.U in disbelief, suddenly she faints.

FADE OUT.

8 INT. GIDIZEN UNIVERSITY - DAY. 8

Jane leads two police officers into the classroom and points out three boys, the officers arrest the boys and take them out.

9 EXT. GIDIZEN UNIVERSITY - CONTINUOUS. 9

The Faculty Dean, MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN(40s) comes out of a car, holding a file as he walks through the premises he spots the boys being taken away and quickly rushes to the scene.

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN

What is going on here officers? Why are you arresting the boys

OFFICER 1

And who are you?

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN

I am the Dean of this school
"KAYODE ADEBESHIN",
(points to the boys)
This is my son and his friends..you can't take them away.

The officers show him the arrest warrant.

OFFICER 1

We are arresting them on the charges of rape , the case has already been file in the court, you will receive a court notice in due time. Please excuse us Sir!

The boys are taken away.

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN
Don't worry son.. I'll get you out.

He rushes back to enter his car.

CUT TO:

10

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY.

10

Everyone are seated in the courtroom as the judge walks in.

CLERK
All rise for honorable justice, Mr
Olusegun Adeoluwa!!

Everyone stands on their feet.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN
You may all take your seats.

Everyone sits down.

CLERK
Order in the court! We are
gathering today to witness the
judgement of AUSTIN ADEBESHIN,
HENRY AKPAN, and JAMES EZE, they
have been charged with rape of Miss
MABEL OKOJIE.

The lawyers introduce themselves.

BARRISTER BIMBO
Your Honour..I am BARRISTER BIMBO,
I represent Miss Mabel Okojie, the
victim.

BARRISTER OKOYE
Your Honour..I am BARRISTER OKOYE,
I am appearing for the defendants
in this case.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN
Now could we have the prosecutor
speak.

Barrister Bimbo begins the argument.

BARRISTER BIMBO

Your Honour! Without wasting much of the Court's time, we have a strong evidence to back up our claim that my client, Miss Mabel Okojie was brutally raped by the defendants..with your permission your honour!

She hands over a letter to the clerk, the clerk pass it over to the judge.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN

Does the defense lawyer have anything to say before the evidence is presented.

Barrister Okoye stands up and begin his argument.

BARRISTER OKOYE

Your Honour! I would like to call on a witness, Miss MELISSA who is a close friend of the victim for direct examination.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN

You can proceed.

BARRISTER OKOYE

May I have the witness approach the stand.

Melissa walks into the witness box.

BARRISTER OKOYE (CONT'D)

Could you tell the court what you witness on that day.

MELISSA

I am a very close friend of Mabel, sometime ago..we were having a conversation and she told me that she was tired of living in poverty and she wouldn't mind trapping any rich man to get rid of her family's financial situation, and--

Barrister BIMBO interject.

BARRISTER BIMBO

Objection your Honour!!

JUDGE OLUSEGUN

Objection Overruled! The witness may continue.

MELISSA

The day the incident took place, I was preparing to go home after class was over..and as soon as I stepped out of the school premises, I saw Mabel in a compromising position with a man old enough to be her father in a car parked across the school.

Mrs LARA angrily stands up.

MRS LARA

That is not true, you are lying!

There's a loud noise in the court room as people murmur amongst themselves.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN

ORDER, ORDER, ORDER in court room!
Mrs LARA take a seat and be quiet.

Mrs LARA sits down.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN (CONT'D)

Is this all you have to say or do you have more to tell the court.

MELISSA

No your honour, that's all I have to say.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN

The prosecutor has the floor to cross examine the witness

BARRISTER BIMBO

Your Honour..not at the moment, I'd like to cross-examine after the medical results is evaluated.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN

The witness may resume her seat..the defense lawyer may continue.

BARRISTER OKOYE

Your Honour! my clients have been wrongly accused..

(MORE)

BARRISTER OKOYE (CONT'D)
because on the day the incident
took place, my clients were not in
school or anywhere near the said
location..

JUDGE OLUSEGUN
Do you have any evidence to prove
that..

BARRISTER OKOYE
Yes your Honour..in fact on that
day my client and his friends were
not in the country,they had to
travel to Ghana for their school
project research. I have their
tickets receipt and project
documents with me.

He hands over a document to the clerk, the clerk pass it over
to the judge.

BARRISTER OKOYE (CONT'D)
Your Honour, we just heard clearly
from her best friend the kind of
character portrayed by the victim,
it's very obvious her mother is no
less..Your Honour, I put it to you
that the real culprit is the
unknown man the victim was having
an illicit relationship with, and
because the man's whereabouts is
untraceable.. the victim's mother
wants to use my clients as a
scapegoats so that she'll get money
from the boys parents..that would
be all for now.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN
I have with me here the medical
examination report from the crime
lab as the evidence.

The judge opens the report and reads it out.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN (CONT'D)
 After reviewing the report.. the
 semen sample report is negative, it
 does not match with the DNA of
 AUSTIN ADEBESHIN.

There's an uproar in the court.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN (CONT'D)
 ORDER, ORDER, ORDER in the court
 room. Ok lawyers, is there anything
 you would like to say before I pass
 my judgement.

Barrister Bimbo stands up defeated.

BARRISTER BIMBO
 No your Honour!

The defense lawyer stands up.

BARRISTER OKOYE
 (Mockingly)
 Your Honour..There isn't any proof
 that my clients have done this..so
 without any proof..I rest my case.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN
 So without any further evidence, I
 hereby acquits the accused from the
 rape case, the court is dismissed.

CLERK
 All rise!!

CUT TO:

11 EXT. COURT ROOM - LATER.

11

Outside the courtroom, MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN walks up to Mrs
 LARA.

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN
 Mrs LARA OKOJIE, look... I'm very
 sorry about your daughter..you see
 my son is a good boy.

MRS LARA
 Is he?

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN
 He isn't capable of harming anyone,
 let alone defile a young girl..
 (MORE)

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN (CONT'D)
 it's ridiculous..well, on behalf of
 my family, I'd like to offer you
 (brings out a cheque)
 A sum of two million Naira to
 compensate for your troubles.

MRS LARA
 (Surprised)
 If your son is so innocent as you
 claimed, then what are you paying
 me for..is it for the mental
 anguish or the painful sufferings
 my daughter had to go through.

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN
 Calm down, Mrs Lara.

She takes a beat

MRS LARA
 You don't tell me to calm down...if
 the same had happened to your
 daughter, then.. you would have
 known how it felt as a parent.

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN
 Don't you dare drag my daughter
 into this, I am only trying to
 help, it's just a way of showing my
 act of benevolence to your family.

MRS LARA
 I don't need your filthy money,
 I'll do everything it takes to get
 justice for my daughter, it's not
 over yet.

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN
 (Smiles)
 Oh really!! I'd like to see you
 try..what will you do.. you're
 nothing but a common cleaner and
 that is all you will ever be..

Mrs Lara looks at him angrily as he walks away.

FADE OUT.

13 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY.

13

Jane meets with a blogger, they are both seated on a bench as they engage in conversation.

BLOGGER

Don't worry Jane, I'll start working on Mabel's story as soon as possible.

JANE

Please..the perpetrators must pay dearly for what they did to my friend..

(Pause)

Mrs Lara..the poor woman, she has been the only one taking care of the family since her husband had stroke two years ago, the poor man..he was slowly recovering when the unfortunate befell his daughter.. you need to see the terrible state are parents are in..

14 INSERT - MABEL'S RESIDENCE.

14

We see Mrs Lara holding a photo frame, she hugs it dearly, she breaks down in tears, her husband comes in and hold her from behind crying with her.

BACK TO SCENE.

BLOGGER

Thank you for sharing her story.. we'll definitely get justice for her.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER.

15

We see the blogger typing on a laptop as an image poster of Mabel with the write up " JUSTICE FOR MABEL" pops up on screen, we see different comments from the public as the story goes viral.

16 INT. DSVVA OFFICE - DAY.

16

At the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, the Executive Secretary, Mrs TEMILAYO VIVOUR ADETOLA (30s) sits at her desk reading over a file, behind her are various awards and plaques, picture frame of the president and the governor are displayed on the wall.

A knock at her door, her assistant, MARY (20s), walks in.

MARY

Ma'am, there's a story that has been going round on social media that might be of interest to you.

MRS TEMILAYO

Oh really? Let me see.

Mary pass the phone over to her, she scroll through.

MRS TEMILAYO (CONT'D)

Hmmm..This is a very sensitive case, please find out her information from the blogger, I want to know everything about her in 24 hrs..inform the team..we have a rescue mission to carry out.

MARY

Yes ma'am.

She rushes out.

CUT TO:

17 INT. KAYODE ADEBESHIN RESIDENCE - SITTING ROOM - DAY.

17

Mr KAYODE ADEBESHIN is watching TV with his son when their maid brought in a letter, she hands it over to him.

He opens it and exclaim.

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN

Court notice again!!

His son cuts in.

AUSTIN

Dad! What happened, why did you scream like that?

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN

(Angrily)

The rape case of that girl has been reopened..we have to appear in court on Thursday..some organisation.. "Lagos State Domestic and Sexual violence Agency" under the ministry of Justice has taken up the case and file for an appeal.

AUSTIN

(Scared)

Oh shit! not again, what are we going to do..I hope you'll take care of it Dad..I don't want to go to jail.

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN

That's nonsense, don't worry.. I'll handle it, let me call Barrister Okoye..

He dials a number.

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN (CONT'D)

Hello! Barrister Okoye.

CUT TO:

18 INT. COURT ROOM - DAY.

18

The courtroom is full of people. There are murmurs coming from all over the room. The Judge enters.

CLERK

All rise!

Everyone stands on their feet.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN

You may be seated.

Everyone sits down.

CLERK

Your Honour! This is the re-hearing of Miss Mabel Okojie's rape and attempted murder case.

The lawyers introduce themselves.

PROSECUTOR

Your Honour.. I am BARRISTER UFUOMA ADENIYI, I represent Miss Mabel Okojie, the petitioner.

DEFENSE LAWYER

Your Honour..I am BARRISTER OKOYE, I am appearing for the defendants in this case.

Barrister Ufuoma begins the argument.

BARRISTER UFUOMA

Your Honour! During the pre-trial hearing, there was a witness "Miss Melissa" who shared her testimony, if it pleases the court..I would like to call on the same witness for cross-examination.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN

You may proceed.

Melissa is in the witness box.

BARRISTER UFUOMA

Miss Melissa, you are under oath..In direct examination, you testify that on the day the incident took place, you saw the victim with an unknown man, is that correct?

MELISSA

(Confused)

Y..yes, No..

BARRISTER UFUOMA

Yes or No.

MELISSA

(Fidgets)

I...I...uhm, I can't do this anymore, I've been feeling guilty ever since I gave a false testimony, Everything I said in court that day was all a lie.. it's not true.

There's a loud noise in the courtroom as people exclaim in total shock.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN

Order, order in the courtroom!

MELISSA

(Cries)

I am very sorry for misleading the court, I was threatened to be rusticated by the Dean if I did not testify against Mabel.

Mr Kayode Adebeshin interject.

MR KAYODE ADEBESHIN

The girl is lying!

JUDGE OLUSEGUN

Mr Kayode, please comport yourself and be seated, this is a courtroom.

Mr Kayode Adebeshin sits down, Barrister Okoye stands up.

BARRISTER OKOYE

Objection My Honour!

JUDGE OLUSEGUN

Objection sustained.

BARRISTER OKOYE

Your Honour, Miss Melissa's testimony doesn't add up, she keeps changing her statement, she's not trustworthy, your Honour..I will urge you to close this case immediately as there is no proof to incriminate my clients.

Suddenly, Mabel walks into the courtroom shocking everyone with her appearance as they look at her in disbelief.

She is led in by Mrs Temilayo, they both take a seat.

BARRISTER UFUOMA

Your Honour! My client.. Miss Mabel was in a life threatening condition after the traumatic incident, and now she's alive and recovering..

(turns to Mabel)

Miss Mabel would like to say anything on your own behalf.

MABEL

Yes.

Mabel walks into the witness box.

FADE OUT.

FLASHBACK.

MABEL (V.O.)

After class was over that day, I helped my mother to clean the floors briefly before I decided to go home and make dinner for my father..he was just recovering from stroke..on my way I bumped into Austin and his friends..

19 EXT. DESOLATE ROAD - EVENING.

19

Austin and his friends are hanging out when Mabel pass through the road.

Austin approach her.

AUSTIN

Hi.. pretty girl, I've been trying so hard to get your number since 100 level but you've been proving too hard to get.. what's so special about you.

MABEL

How many times will I say no to you.. it's clear that I'm not interested in any relationship with you.. is that so hard for you to understand.

HENRY

Hey girl.. wetin dey sup, which one be your own na.

JAMES

No...leave am, she think say she be Agbani Darego..Mtcheew.

AUSTIN

I'll ask you for the last time, give me your number and accept me as your boyfriend.

MABEL

My answer remains the same..I don't want to be your girlfriend. Please move away, I need to go home.

AUSTIN
 (Angrily)
 No girl has ever rejected me..
 you'll pay dearly for this.

He looks around to check if anybody is in sight. Suddenly he signal to his friends to get her.

MABEL
 What's happening why are you guys
 coming closer.

She tries to run away but Austin's friends get hold of her, they carry her to an empty corner.

She struggles with them as they hit her brutally, pin her down and Austin begins to have his way with her.

After he is done with her, they carry her and dump her body along the side of the road, leaving her to die.

FADE OUT.

20 INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY.

20

We see Mabel laying on the bed, she's recovering, her mother sits beside her when Mrs TEMILAYO visits her with Barrister Ufuoma.

Mabel smile as they all converse inaudibly.

BACK TO PRESENT.

MABEL
 That was how it happened.

BARRISTER OKOYE
 If that's the case, do you have any
 evidence to back up your claims,
 you see..the court doesn't pass
 judgement on sentiment or emotional
 narration, your Honour..this is
 just a waste of the Court time,
 I'll say we end this case
 now...that would be all for now.

BARRISTER UFUOMA
 Your Honour.. there's a new witness
 and evidence, I would like to call
 on my next witness.. Doctor FATIMA
 to prove my point.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN
Call your next witness.

BARRISTER UFUOMA
May I have the witness approach the stand.

Doctor Fatima walks into the witness stand.

DOCTOR FATIMA
Your Honour..my name is Doctor Fatima, I am the senior doctor who was in charge of Mabel's forensic examination, after coming across Mabel's story on social media, it got to my notice that a junior doctor who works with me had tampered with the original report and hence the fake report was presented during the pre-trial hearing...

BARRISTER UFUOMA
Thank you doctor Fatima you may resume your seat.. Your Honour, as we speak the junior doctor has been apprehended by the police and he confessed that he was bribed by the defendant Father..Mr Kayode Adebeshin.

The atmosphere in the court goes silence as Mr Kayode Adebeshin looks down in shame.

BARRISTER UFUOMA (CONT'D)
Your Honour, I have with me here the arrest statement and proof of bank transaction between Mr Kayode Adebeshin and the junior doctor, and lastly the original medical report.

She hands it to the clerk, he pass it over to the judge.

BARRISTER UFUOMA (CONT'D)
That would be all your Honour!

Barrister Ufuoma resume to her seat.

The judge analyse the report for a while.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN

Does the defendant lawyer have anything to say before i pass my judgement.

BARRISTER OKOYE

(Agitated)

No your Honour..

Barrister Ufuoma smile victoriously.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN

(Clears his throat)

Base on the testimony and evidence presented during trial - Mr "AUSTIN ADEBESHIN" along with his friends.."HENRY AKPAN" and "JAMES EZE" conspired together and committed a crime on the 18th of December, 2022 - Under section 258 of CLL and section 320 of the Criminal code act..they are found guilty of rape and attempted murder of Miss Mabel Okojie, hence they are sentence to life imprisonment.

The perpetrators bow their head in guilt and regrets.

JUDGE OLUSEGUN (CONT'D)

Mr KAYODE ADEBESHIN..for misleading the court and tampering with the evidence, you are found guilty of perjury under section 120 of the Criminal code, you are hereby sentence to seven years imprisonment..Court is dismissed.

CLERK

All rise!

There is joy in the courtroom as Mabel wins the case.

The perpetrators and Mr KAYODE ADEBESHIN are taken away.

CUT TO:

21 INT. MABEL'S RESIDENCE - SITTING ROOM - DAY.

21

Mabel and her parents are chatting when they hear a knock at their door, Mrs Lara opens the door and to her surprise Mrs Temilayo and Mary walks in.

She offers them a seat.

MRS TEMILAYO

(Smiles)

On behalf of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, the Lagos State Government have decided to compensate your family for your adversity with a sum of Ten million Naira.

She hands over a cheque to Mrs Lara.

MRS TEMILAYO (CONT'D)

And also a scholarship for Mabel to continue her education.

She hands over a brown paper to Mabel.

The family shouts in celebration and thanks the organization.

Mrs Temilayo and Mary walks out.

Mabel embrace her parents as they rejoice in tears and happiness.

FADE TO BLACK.

22

22

SUPER IMPOSE: BLACK SCREEN,

If you or someone you know have been victims of sexual violence, please contact the " LAGOS STATE DOMESTIC and SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGENCY"(DSVA) for help and assistance.

Report it via the toll free number 08000-333-333.

Don't live in silence, let us be your voice, say no to rape...

THE - END.