

Robbers kill 4 cops, raid banks in Nnewi

ALPHONSUS NWEZE, Onitsha
and ODOGWU EMEKA
ODOGWU, Awka

HOODLUMS unleashed a fresh orgy of violence on Anambra State early yesterday, killing at least four policemen and robbing no less than six banks in Nnewi.

Several accounts of the midnight to early morning

raid said the bandits might have numbered over 30 and operated virtually unmolested for about five hours.

One account said the marauders rode in 10 buses and four jeeps, armed with assorted dangerous weapons including AK47 rifles, gas cylinders and carpentry tools with which they gained access to the banks unchallenged

along the Edo Ezemewi Road popularly called Bank Road.

They unleashed terror at Obosi Community Bank where they killed four before heading to Nnewi, making away with undisclosed sums of money.

Anambra State governor, Peter Obi who raced to the scene yesterday morning before visiting Chicason

Continues on page 6

Continued from P.1

where two foreigners and one native were kidnapped, decried the crime saying it would never happen again as security operatives and his government would find a lasting solution to the problem of armed robbery.

Obi told a crowd at Nnewi: "Look at the equipment they came with; the number of expended bullet shells there. They were articulated, obviously it was an organized robbery. But be calm and see what government is going to do".

The governor visited the scenes in company of State

Robbers

Police Commissioner, John Haruna.

Daily Champion observed most of the banks' vaults were riddled with bullets just as valuable documents and computer sets littered the floors. ATM machines and security doors of the banks were all shattered by explosions as well.

State deputy commissioner of police Amusa Bello told journalists that the robbers started the operation at Obosi, in Idemili north local government area, where he said the robbers killed one ASP, an inspector, a sergeant

and a corporal, and made away with AK47 rifle before they moved down to Nnewi to rob the banks.

His words: "It was after that operation that they came to Nnewi. The number of robbers was so many that whoever tried to have a direct contact with them will be committing suicide. We don't want our men to commit suicide."

About eight hundred expended bullet shells and seven gas cylinders used to rip open banks vaults were shown to Gov. Obi when he inspected the scenes.

According to sources, residents of Nnewi were subjected to intense fear

as the robbers who were shooting indiscriminately, took several hours from about midnight till 5a.m. to raid the banks, without response from police apparently because of the sophisticated weapons they were operating with.

A witness told *Daily Champion* that the robbers, in attempt to get into the strong rooms of the banks damaged vehicles, buildings, burglary proofing and other equipment at the banks.

State Police spokesman, Fidelis Agbo told *Daily Champion* that no arrest had been made so far and that the total value of cash lost had not been determined.

take steps to ensure that the Obasanjo regime fails in its scheme to rush the country into anarchy and to take its current effort on the PTDF matter to its logical conclusion," he maintained.

The former governor, who is also factional chairman of the Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP), averred that the failed attempts to cover up the PTDF scandal had exposed the Obasanjo administration as insincere, and said the ill-advised decision of the Senate

to abandon its duties at this time instead of pushing the probe to its logical conclusion, would amount to assisting the administration to achieve its "evil designs".

Musa advised the lawmakers to align themselves on the side of history, assuring them that Nigerians would stand with them in their current drive to reveal the whole truth about the PTDF scandals and should, therefore, stop at nothing short of the outright impeachment of the president and his vice.

before a game, he is precluded from participating in that game. It is different from a referee sending somebody, a player out from a match."

He said "if you know a little about soccer you will know that a referee, if in the previous match gave a red card to a player, it means that player will not participate in the next game. It is the rule of the game, nobody questions it."

The expected ruling on the eligibility of or otherwise of the Vice President to contest next elections by the Supreme Court, Iwu said, would be obeyed.

He, however, stated that it

would be against the interest of the country to give ruling that will make mince meat of the constitution and the Electoral Act.

According to him, "If people are saying that we should set aside the constitution, so be it. If the Supreme Court says we should set aside the constitution so be it, we will obey.

But the issue here is that we did not disqualify anybody. Our job is only giving effect to our constitution. I hope people have had time to read section 137. We are supposed to obey the constitution. We swore to uphold the constitution and defend it.

Most Newspaper director, Alhaji Mohammed Ilyas Damagun at a federal high court in Abuja division, over alleged terrorism.

In the amended charge, Damagun is alleged to have conspired with some unnamed people to commit alleged acts of terrorism between 2004 and 2006.

Also charged with him is one Mohammed Yusuf who would

Anambra AC alleges plot to attack Ngige

ODOGWU EMEKA ODOGWU, Awka

ANAMBRA State chapter of Action Congress (AC) has alleged plot to attack its governorship candidate in the state, Dr Chris Ngige by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

But, swiftly, state chairman of PDP, Mr Tony Nwoye dismissed the allegation as baseless, contending that neither Ngige nor AC was a match to PDP.

In a statement signed by Chief Charles Amilo, director of communications Ngige Campaign Organisation, the plot to attack Ngige, who until last year was the governor of the state had reached an advanced

stage. He is accused of being a member of an illegal terrorist organization known and called "The Nigerian Taliban".

of the Federal Ministry of Justice, Abdullahi Mikailu, the media chieftain is accused of "advocating religious violence through indoctrination and other acts and techniques of terrorism in Kano, Abuja and some other parts of the country".

It alleged that thugs in the state have been mobilized to carry out the attack, calling on the police to intervene and stop the move.

The statement read, "The Ngige Campaign Organisation has uncovered fresh plot by some desperate politicians belonging to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Anambra State to attack and disrupt the various campaign teams of the Action Congress (AC) and its teeming supporters in the State and in the process harm its governorship candidate, His Excellency, Dr. Chris Nwabueze Ngige (OON, KSJ)".

Female teacher killed in Gombe over Quran

WILLIAMS ATTAH, Gombe

BARELY 24 hours to the forceful abduction of former governor of Gombe, Abubakar Habu Hashidu, in court by his supporters Tuesday afternoon, students of the Government Day Secondary School, Gandu in Gombe, went on rampage killing a female teacher and setting the school on fire yesterday morning.

The latest incident has compounded the lapses in security of lives and property in the state capital following the tension mounted in the state from political activities.

The students, *Daily Champion*

gathered killed and set Mrs. Oluwatoyin Oluwasesan on fire for allegedly desecrating the Holy Quran while invigilating their end of term examination.

When *Daily Champion* visited the school in the afternoon, vice principal, Hadiza Ali Gombe, revealed that the teacher who was employed on contract, was assigned to invigilate the SS 1 classes who were writing their Islamic religious knowledge (IRK) exam.

According to her the teacher suspected that a foul play was about to take place when one of the students wanted to come in with his books inside the examination hall.

Parties reject recess

Continued from P.1

to suspend the plan to go on recess until the Senate had done with all businesses pertaining to the PTDF robe.

The parties, which made the call at a press conference in Abuja through former Kaduna State governor Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa, urged the Federal lawmakers to stay back and rather commence moves for the impeachment of both

President Olusegun Obasanjo and Vice President Atiku Abubakar.

Musa said if the National Assembly refused to heed popular appeals and went on a recess at this point in time, the members would stand accused of "dereliction of duty" as Nigerians would see them as having "deserted" Nigeria at a critical moment.

"The National Assembly should remain in session to

Continued from P.1

being deceived by the affected candidates, insisted that steps taken so far by his commission were in the interest of the country.

Specifically explaining the commission's stand on the Vice President, the INEC chairman, said that the electoral body was being guided by the Constitution in stopping him from vying for presidency.

According to him, he had no personal problem with Atiku but stressed that the law of the land had to be followed irrespective

Iwu

of the personality that may be affected by it.

Using the game of soccer to buttress his point, Iwu contended that a player given red card in a previous match, was often excluded from playing the next match, maintaining that such rule do not change no matter the clout and popularity of a player.

He said, "let me start by first of all explaining that we didn't disqualify Atiku. So any court ruling that stands on that premise, we will challenge it.

"If a candidate had a red card