

# Jungle Justice

## 3 robbers roasted •Police condemn act

Stories by LUKKEY ABAWURU

**N**EMESIS caught up with three armed robbery suspects, last week, as irate motor cyclists (Okada riders) burnt them (suspects) alive while attempting to escape with their loots.

The robbery suspects successfully robbed a business man of the sum of N1.8 million at *White house* bust stop Ajangbandi, in Ojo local government area of Lagos State.

*Daily Champion* gathered that the robbery suspects, who operated in two motor bikes carrying two person each, trailed the Cotonou Republic of Benin-based businessman identified as Obieze from Seme boarder where he hired the cab to convey him to Ojo Alaba International Market.

However, our correspondent learnt that the suspects would have robbed the man, at a point between Badagry and Agbara but one of their motorcycles developed minor fault that temporarily halted their journey. This development made the unsuspecting businessman to cruise to a far distance before the suspects could rectify their bike.

Determined to rob the businessman the suspects after repairing their Okada speed off and sighted the cab at a vehicular traffic at Okokomaiko Police Station.

Apparently afraid of the police presence at the area the suspects slowed down the pace and followed the cab till the white house bus stop where the cab attempted to branch into a compound.

Our witness said that two out of the four man robbery gang jumped down from the bikes and surrounded the driver with guns threatening him to surrender the car key or face death.

The witness stated that the owner of the money

asked the driver not to drag anything with them to avoid indiscriminate shooting.

But the driver challenged the robbers by refusing to open the boot of the car where the money was kept. This compelled the suspects to shoot the driver at close range resulting to the immediate death of the driver.

Frightened by the gun shot the owner of the money was said to have quietly opened the boot and handed the sac containing the money to the suspects.

The suspects quickly ran away in their Okadas but commercial Okada riders in the area attempted to pursue them but the suspects shot sporadically to pave way for their escape. The determined Okada riders continue monitoring them from a distance until when they (Okada riders) suspected that the suspects might have run out of bullets. At this point, *daily Champion* gathered, the Okada riders pursued them and attempted to over power them. "At this juncture one of the robbers who was carrying the loot jumped down from the speeding Okada and ran into a nearby canal.

The others sensing that one of them had escaped with their loots attempted to divert to the corner before luck ran out of them.

The three others were over powered by the commercial Okada riders who immediately meted instant judgment on them.

However, how the one carrying the loot escaped was a mystery. Some people alleged that some of the Okada riders may have killed him and collected the money from him without disclosing it to others.

But one of the Okada drivers who was said to have struck the match that burnt the criminals said "we pursued them round the



Two robbery suspects who escaped being lynched at Ejigbo recently

street until we found out that their ammunition had been exhausted. So we ran after them and caught them."

Defending their actions, the Okada man identified as Livinus said "if we had taken them to the police, they would have released them for lack of "evidence," so we have decided to sent them to their early graves."

According to him, "similar incident occurred at Ejigbo, last month, and two of the robbery suspects who escaped been lynched were handed over to the police,

few weeks later, the two suspects were released."

Commenting on the issue, Police Public Relation Officer, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni said the actions of the Okada riders in burning the criminals were not known to domestic laws.

Condemning the act, Ojajuni enjoined individuals or group of people to hand over any suspects to the police for onward prosecution. He noted that it is only the police that has the constitutionality duty to detain suspects.

## Mystery fire guts lawyer's office

KASIE ABONE

**S**HOCK waves ran down the spine of Mr. Isaac Akintola as he watched speechless as his office went up in flames. Properties worth thousands of naira were lost to the inferno in his office located at 4A Iya Oloye Street, Maryland, in Ikeja area of Lagos State.

Sources at Ikeja Divisional Police Station where the case was reported said the fire incident was caused by a faulty metre control switch fitted on the wall of the office. The

source revealed that though the afternoon fire destroyed so many valuable properties the value of which is not immediately ascertained, no life was however lost in the accident.

When contacted for comment, the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officers, Mr. Olabode Ojajuni confirmed the incident but said that investigation into the remote and immediate causes of the fire accident is going on.