

Anambra: Robbers kill 3 policemen, 2 civilians

BY JUSTIN OZUZU, *Nnewi*

A gang of armed robbers has reportedly killed three highway policemen and two civilians while their vehicle particulars were being checked by the police in Anambra State.

The incident, which occurred on Friday at about 8pm on Onitsha-Owerri expressway, left several others with bullet wounds.

According to *Sunday Champion* investigation, the tragic incident was said to have taken place in one of the police check points near Nigerian Starch Mill at Uli.

It was gathered that the police as usual flagged down a car coming from Owerri axis and another lorry for a routine check.

According to an eye witness, it was in the course of that that another black Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) with its full head lamp pulled behind the lorry.

The source further told our correspondent that the police, apparently thought the driver of the jeep which decided not to queue up was to submit to security check, never knew that the occupants of the said jeep were armed robbers.

The hoodlums immediately took advantage of the situation and opened fire on the police and occupants of the car under security check during which three policemen were reportedly shot dead, including the two occupants of the car, leaving the third person and a lady with bullet wounds.

The armed robbers were said to have continued the attack through their escape route along the Okija-Onitsha expressway, shooting at the policemen at Ihiala, Azia and Okija check points.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in Awka, Mr. Emeka Chukwuemeka, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), who confirmed the story, could not give details, saying the whole incident, "is still sketchy".