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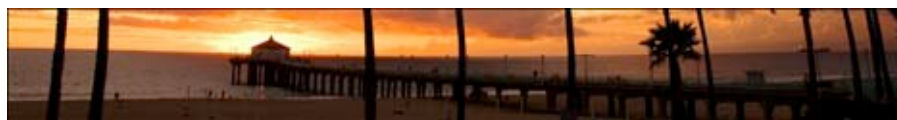
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Nigeria: Ten Killed in Nnewi, Mushin Attacks

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2 August 2011

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Nnewi — AT least 10 persons were yesterday killed in two separate attacks in Nnewi, Anambra State and Mushin, a suburb in Lagos

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In Mushin, five persons were feared killed and 10 others injured in yesterday's rival clash between factional members of National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW).

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As at the time of going to the press, the identities of the deceased were not ascertained but a source said they were mainly miscreants who were brought to assist the opposition in unseating the incumbent. He said the deceased may not have known the terrain of the place and therefore became easy prey for their enemies

Daily Champion gathered that trouble started when a faction of the association opposed to the incumbent leadership demanded for dissolution of the union. They described his administration as 'high handedness' which purportedly refused to carry them along. They

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further accused the incumbent of corruption and asked him to render account of the association which he allegedly refused.

Daily Champion gathered that the cold war started a year ago, when the leader of the opposition attempted to overthrow the incumbent. He said his effort was thwarted as he was betrayed by one of his loyalists. He said since then the leader declared him an enemy.

He alleged that what caused yesterday's fracas was a disagreement between two factional members over collection of tolls.

Our source said a member of the incumbent wanted to collect the toll from a motorist who is sympathetic with the opposition but the driver refused and instead, paid the money to the opposition, which the leader saw as an attempt to topple him. He quickly mobilized his members for action

Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Samuel Jinadu confirmed the incident but said policemen have been deployed to the scene to enhance peace in the area.

In Nnewi, at least, six persons, including two soldiers were killed following a shoot out between soldiers and gunmen suspected to be kidnappers at Nnobi in Idemili South Local Government Area, Anambra State.

The incident forced banks in Nnewi industrial community to shut down for business.

Daily Champion gathered that the gunmen numbering about six including a lady in a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) were said to be heading for an operation in Awka-Etiti while an army patrol van with about four occupants was behind them without knowing that they were gunmen.

Eyewitnesses said the hoodlum's SUV hit an Eastern Mass Transit bus at Afor Nnobi roundabout and suspecting that they were being trailed by the soldiers, the gunmen opened fire. Two soldiers including the driver reportedly died on the spot as they were taken unawares. Some passers-by were injured in the process.

The remaining two soldiers, our source said, challenged the hoodlums and succeeded in killing one of them. However the gunmen managed to escape with the corpse of their colleague.

Daily Champion further gathered that at Neni the armed robbers abandoned their shattered SUV and snatched another one after shooting one of the occupants.

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The incident forced a popular local market there, Afor Nnobi to shut down, as people ran helter-skelter during the shooting that lasted over 30 minutes.

This was coming barely 72 hours after Governor Peter Obi of Anambra State at a town hall meeting in Nnewi warned that his administration warned criminals in the state to keep off.

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of Anambra State Police Command, Awka Mr Emeka Chukwuemeka confirmed the incident but said he was yet to get details of it.

Meanwhile, dare-devil armed robbers and hoodlums may have sacked the Elemoroland a quiet village in Ibeju-Lekki Local Council Development Area (LCDA) of Lagos state following a distress call on the state government by the traditional ruler, Oba Tajudeen Afolabi.

The monarch who addressed newsmen in his palace recently said the armed gangs who always strike mostly in the night rain also involve in land grabbing and have raided many houses including the secretary to the LCDA, Shamsideen Elemoro.

Oba Afolabi also added that some villagers ran away from the village for the apparent fear of the bandits further unleashing terror on them.

According to the traditional ruler, the community has witnessed undeserved upsurge of crimes and criminality in the last five months.

He recalled that the armed robbers who will slip into the area mostly when raining employ bold means of forcing their way into premises and homes.

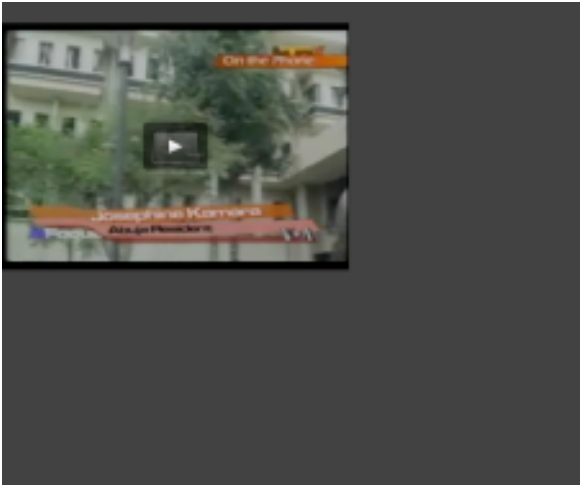
He said: "They often use tools used in demolishing structures like sledge hammers to forcefully gain entry into homes at night.

"We simply can't continue like this. Each day residents come to my palace to tell me how they were robbed. As the traditional ruler of this community it really worries and saddened me to know that my people live in fear.

"We have discovered that the criminals operate from the nearby village called Oko Olomi; we have immediately informed the Police and they once carried out a raid on the village during which some suspects were arrested."

On how the armed robbers made their first entry into Elemoroland, the monarch alleged that a woman called Toyin

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otherwise referred to as Iya Alaba hired them to harass and extort land owners: "When we stopped Toyin from using the hoodlums to harass landowners, the hoodlums, having nothing to fall back on now resorted to armed robbery."

He said his cabinet has held several forums with the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of the Elemoro Police station, chairman of the council, Prince Bayo Balogun towards finding lasting solution to the social menace.

He said the community has also engaged private security outfit to beef up security at N800, 000 monthly, the situation the monarch regretted, "I am urgently appealing to the concerned authorities to come to our aid quickly."

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