

Gunmen kill top govt official in Borno

AHMED MARI, Maiduguri

THE General Manager of the Borno state Housing Corporation, Isa Madu Ngaram, an engineer, has been gunned down by some gunmen yesterday morning in front of his office located at one of the troubled spots in Maiduguri metropolis.

Our correspondent learnt that the incident occurred at about 11am when the gunmen trailed the General Manager to his office at the state Low Cost Housing Estate, where they shot him dead while attempting to enter his private car parked behind his office.

It was gathered that the gunmen went away with the private car of the deceased who was left in a pool of his blood.

Confirming the incident to newsmen on phone, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Jibrin Gideon, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, DSP, said information at his disposal revealed that "the General Manager of the Borno State Housing Corporation, Engr. Isa Madu, has been killed by yet-to-be identified assailants".

Gideon said immediately after the attackers had killed the GM, they made away with his vehicle, before the arrival of security agents.

The PPRO said investigation was still on with a view to apprehending the fleeing assailants, even as he urged the public to assist the police and other security agencies with information on the hideouts of criminals and terrorists in the state.

Police foil robbery attempt, kill 2, arrest 1

CHINEDU WOSU, Yenagoo

POLICE in Bayelsa State on Monday night foiled a bank robbery attempts by some group of hoodlums in Yenagoo, killing two suspected robbers and arrested one with deep bullet wounds during a severe shoot out with the armed gangs.

Police said the robbers were attempting to break the safe of a new generation bank before the command received a distress call and alerted the team of riot policemen who engaged them in a shot out, killing two and arrested one with bullet wounds.

The command said during the shoot out, other members of the gang escaped.

It would be recalled that last week, armed robbers attacked and carted away N6.2million salary and allowances of players of Bayelsa United Football club at their Ayoks hotel rooms along the OMPADEC road in the heart of the city, even as police could not make any arrest.

The robbers, who attacked the players, were armed with guns and sharp objects as they ransacked the hotel rooms and injured some of the players during the raid.

The armed robbers who engaged the team of riot policemen in a severe shoot out, stormed the new generation bank located at the Sanni Abacha Express way at 3am with two black jeeps and other weapons to break the bank's safe but were intercepted by the police.

Daily Champion also confirmed that some of the robbers escaped with the black jeeps and their whereabouts remained sketchy as at the time of this report.

Contacted on the issue, Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, in Bayelsa State, Deputy Superintendent of Police, DSP, Fidelis Odunna, while confirming the incident, said police killed one of the robbers in a shot out, while one with deep bullet wound was arrested.

Odunna said the robbers stormed the bank at 3am with black jeep and sharp objects, but gallant police men foiled the attempt, arrested one and killed another before other gang members escaped.

The PPRO said the command was combing the creeks and villages to ensure the arrest of other escapees and prosecute them accordingly.

Vehicle crushes 6-yr-old pupil in Awka

AN over speeding car driver yesterday killed a six-year-old boy at Amawbia, near Awka, Anambra State.

An eye witness told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the boy was returning from school when the accident happened.

The eyewitness said the boy was trying to cross a road when he was knocked down by the driver.

The driver was said to have sped off as the boy died instantly.

Confirming the incident, the Anambra Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Mr. Hyginus Omeje, warned drivers against over-speeding and reckless driving.

Land tussle: 2 dead, 10 injured, villagers sacked in Ogun

KAYODE OBISANYA, Abeokuta

SUSPECTED land grabbers on Tuesday invaded Ajambata Village near Atan in Ado/Odo Ota Local Government Area of Ogun State killing two, wounding 10 and reduced the village to rubbles.

The incident occurred at about 9pm when the land grabbers invaded the village with some dangerous weapons including guns, cutlasses and scared the people of the village who ran for dear lives.

Don't use corpses as guinea pigs, groups tells NYSC

MUSLIM Rights Concern (MURIC) has described as naïve, insensitive and provocative the posting of many fresh graduates of Southern origin to the troubled spots in the North by the authorities of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC).

This was contained in a statement signed by the MURIC Director, Professor Is-haq Akintola, in Lagos yesterday.

The statement read in part: "Sending youth corpses from the South to this troubled area is pregnant with several impressions. It portrays those at the helm of affairs in the NYSC national secretariat as insensitive to the fears being expressed by parents and concerned citizens. It also gives the impression that corpses are regarded by the authorities as mere sacrificial lambs whose lives mean nothing at all to the NYSC top echelon."

"In view of reported killings of corpses posted to those zones where Boko Haram insurgency is very active, the authorities ought to have considered the implications of sending young and innocent corpses to the zone. It is also heartless sending corpses to terra incognita."

"MURIC holds NYSC authorities responsible for this blunder. The Boko Haram insurgency has so far been the longest violent phenomenon the North has ever witnessed and NYSC authorities should have prepared safeguards and measures aimed at reassuring the young graduates and their parents."

"The best assurance and greatest safeguard anybody can give in such a circumstance is to restrict the services of corpses of Southern origin to the South. After all, what is important is that graduates should experience other Nigerian cultures different from their own."

"So, what is wrong with sending graduates from the Southeast to the Southwest and vice versa at least while the Boko Haram imbroglio still rages. NYSC can resume the normal postings on the return of normalcy."

"Even corpses of Northern origin serving in the North must be properly protected by the security agencies. But we know that the security agencies are only instructed to focus attention on government officials while innocent corpses are exposed to perils of unimaginable proportions."

The incident, which lasted for about three hours, saw not less than two people, Adufe Dada and one Bayo Odunaro, lying in the pool of their own blood and died few hours later with another 10 people injured and properties destroyed.

Also torched was the African Church building located at the entrance of the village with the hoodlums vandalizing the chairs and other properties of the Church.

The Otun of Ajambata, Chief Adeleke Akinde, alleged that their attackers were led by one Alhaji Mutairu Owioye, a professional land grabber that resides at Eremi Ilogbo with the connivance of some residents of Orita. Ajebandele a few kilometres to the affected village.

"The harassment had started since year 2001 before degenerating to this extent and we had complained to the law enforcement agencies but nothing was done to nip the crisis in the bud, but rather than solve the problem of the harassment, the land grabbers had been

using law enforcement agents to intimidate and harass us".

He said he had also petitioned the State Security Services and the Assistant Inspector-General of Police for assistance before the Tuesday incident happened.

A visit to the village yesterday, revealed that the whole village had been deserted with the youths barricading the roads leading to the village with a big log thereby preventing easy access to the village.

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in Ogun State, Muyiwa Adejobi, denied knowledge of the incident but told the villagers to report the matter at the nearest station, adding that the Police were ready to continue to safeguard lives and properties of the people.

But the Ogun State Director of SSS, Mr. Joseph Okpo, confirmed that the villagers had last week submitted a petition on harassment and invasion of their village by the land grabbers being led by one Owioye and which his men are still investigating.

Myste money

FEAR and confusion gripped residents of Hwolshe in Jos, Plateau State, when N300, 000 Church collection suddenly turned to a bundle of

DEMOLISHED ... Some journalists going round the scene of the demolished NUJ Press Centre, Abuja Council, at Wuse zone 6, yesterday.

PHOTO: FRANCIS OJO

