

# Robbers raid Abuja supermarket, kill police

## ...as four die in Sokoto robbery

By Mohammed Lawal Shuaibu

A gang of armed robbers yesterday during night fall, raided a central supermarket in Abuja, killing a policeman, and injuring another. They carted millions of naira and a car.

The six robbers who brought the Bomas supermarket at Iluobe filling station along Aminu Kano Crescent in Wuse II, Abuja, to a standstill at about 5pm, gained entrance by killing a policeman and injuring another who was sitting in the station to clear the way.

Witnesses said the robbers shot the two policemen, one on the head and the other on the leg. The one that was shot on the head died on the spot while the other was left in the pool of his blood.

The armed bandits ordered the supermarket customers to lie on the ground for them to rob them of their belongings, Fidelis Ani, a staff of the supermarket said.

He said: "I just came back from the City Hospital at Wuse Zone 5 where I had taken a staff of ours who was indisposed to when I heard a

gun shot. The sound drew my attention and I turned back to see a policeman lying lifeless on the ground. And there was another shot leaving another policeman staggering in a pool of blood. And the robbers ran after him and gave him another shot that brought him down."

"While this was going on, some of the robbers were already in the supermarket ordering customers to bring out their belonging and others were breaking into our strong room carrying out our cash. And aside, cameras, jewelleryes and other valuables were carted by the fierce looking men of the underworld," he explained.

Ani added that the robbers in a raid that lasted for more than half an hour, took away a Toyota Camry car belong to a customer and damaged another one with an Abuja registration number, BL 699-RBC with several

gunshots.

When asked, the supermarket cashier, Abraham Sunday, said about N3m was taken away by the robbers.

"I brought out the money and gave it out to the robbers at gun point", traumatised Sunday explained.

The staff who were still present at the scene as at press time, said they had gone to the Utako police station to report the matter but they were told by police on duty that the Deputy Commissioner of Police was already at the scene. And when they came back to the scene, they could not see any policeman, they lamented.

The policemen, with one confirmed dead, and the other lapsing in coma were taken to the Maitama General hospital.

All efforts to reach out to either the FCT police command's public relations officer, or the commissioner to comment on this incident were unsuccessful.

Also from Sokoto comes a report that about four commuters were killed during an armed robbery operation which took place on the Tareta forest reserve.

A victim who called the Trust hotline, narrated that they left Sokoto at about 8am and that one hour later, they ran into a gang of six armed men in military uniform shooting in the air and stopping vehicles.

He said the robbers forced commuter to lie down as they proceeded to rob them of their money, handsets, clothes and food items among others.

Vehicles that refused to stop were shot at. It was in this process that they shot and killed at least four people, the source said.

He said the robbers whose uniform did appear like that of the Nigerian army, spoke in Hausa and pidgin English.

Among the victims were two Arabs who were being

driven in a jeep bearing Sokoto state registration number.

The source said after about 30 to 40 minutes, the robbers shot in the air and disappeared into the forest.

"After the robbery, we drove towards Gusau. We came to a check point.

The policemen were arguing with a bus driver whom they wanted to take them to the scene of the robbery," the source said.

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