

# Stray bullet hits girl as police, robbers exchange fire

A 20-year-old girl, Miss Favour Oheda, was yesterday morning hit by a stray bullet in a gun duel between robbers and the police at Mararaba junction in Nasarawa state.

The girl who had just alighted from a bike at Mararaba junction and was crossing the Abuja-Keffi expressway, found herself in the middle of a cross fire between the police and armed robbers who were held-up in a traffic jam.

*City News* learnt that the girl left her Nyanya resident at 5.50am for work. "She works in a bore-hole behind Aso Guest and resumes work by 6am," a supervisor in her workplace said.

An eyewitness, Akpan

By Abubakar Yakubu

Ison, said the robbers, who were in a cream coloured Starlet car ran into heavy traffic at Mararaba junction and decided to open fire to scare motorists. "Immediately the shooting started, a police team that was trailing the robbers responded and there was pandemonium everywhere. The police nabbed three of the robbers while the rest escaped," he said.

"After the police took the robbers to the Mararaba police station, roadside traders noticed the girl on the ground and they put her in a wheel barrow before some policemen stopped a bus that took her to the Asokoro General Hospital, he continued.

When *City News* reporter visited the hospital, the girl was undergoing surgery. A doctor disclosed that the bullet pierced through the girl's hand to her stomach. "The

girl is responding to treatment and would pull through," the doctor said.

The girl neighbours who were at the hospital said the girl's brother travelled to

Lagos and is not yet aware of the incident. "We are here to provide her needs as well as give her moral support," Bridget, a neighbour said.

When the reporter called

at the Mararaba police station, a reliable police officer denied that there was an exchange of fire, but confirmed the arrest of some armed robbers yesterday.

## Robbers kill four policemen at Gwagwa

Four police detectives from the Force Criminal Investigation Department were last Friday killed by armed robbers in an ambush along the Gwagwa - Dei-Dei road in Abuja.

*City News* learnt that the police detectives were taking a robbery suspect to his hide-out to make more arrests when they were fired at by

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robbers.

The vehicle in which the policemen met their death is presently parked at the Wuse police station.

A senior police officer who confirmed the incident lamented the manner in which the officers were brutally murdered. "These were

young officers carrying out their duties and it was wicked for any group of persons to kill them. I believe very soon that nemesis would catch up with those robbers and they would be caught," he said.

When contacted the police public relations officer, Elisha Atikunkpan, confirmed the death of the detectives. "They were from force head-

quarters, Abuja, and were actually killed along Dei-Dei-Gwagwa road."

He said he learnt that the robbery suspect was killed along with the policemen, but he is yet to confirm.

The FCT police spokesperson added that the perpetrators of the crime are still on the run and the police are carrying out investigation.