

Many feared killed in Lagos robbery

From Bola Ojuola, Lagos

About 20 persons, including two women, were feared killed in three separate bank robbery operations which occurred in Lagos yesterday.

The robbery operation *Daily Trust* gathered started at about 1am at Alaba International market, along Mile 2 Badagry expressway where about five banks were attacked by a gang of more than 50 armed robbers.

Sources told *Daily Trust* yesterday in Lagos that the bandits had gone to the bank in a convoy of vehicles and some metal and house breaking equipments and were also armed to the teeth.

The operation which was said to have lasted till about six am because of the hot exchange of gun fire between the robbers and policemen who were dispatched to the scene was said to have claimed ten lives.

Most of the victims, *Daily Trust* sources said were civilians who were hit by stray bullets.

A bus carrying early morning passengers was said to have run into the robbers, and in bid to escape from the scene, it fell into a ditch. Authorities say six persons in the bus died.

Some of the affected banks at the Alaba market include Equatorial Trust Bank, First City Monument Bank (FCMB) and IBTC.

The Lagos deputy police public relations officer, Mr Olayinka Egbeiyemi, who confirmed the robbery operation to *Daily Trust*, said four of the robbers were killed by the police while three of them were arrested.

He named the arrested bank robbery suspects as Chidi Orewulu, Godwin Ibegbu, and Michael Ogbem.

At about the same time in Ikorodu, an outskirt of Lagos, seven persons were also said to have been killed in another bank raid where three banks were attacked.

Daily Trust learnt that the banks located on Lagos road include IBTC, Intercontinental and one other bank.

The Ikorodu bank robbery, said to be similar to that of Alaba, was said to have lasted for hours and most of the victims were said to be civilians killed by stray bullets. Millions of naira were said to have been carted away by the robbers.

Also at Matori near Oshodi yesterday morning, a fleeing robbery vehicle was said to have knocked down two persons who died on the spot.

As at the time of filing this report, the police spokesman, Egbeiyemi, told *Daily Trust* that they were still gathering report on some of the

happenings. He was unable to confirm the number of deaths as he said he was not properly briefed.

However, he confirmed the death of some of the robbers, those killed in the bus.

...Two killed as prison and naval men clash

From Bola Ojuola, Lagos

Heavy fight broke out yesterday in Lagos between Prisons officials and men of the Nigerian Navy at Kirikiri Maximum prisons claiming the lives of two persons.

The fight, *Daily Trust* learnt, started in the morning when a senior naval officer wanted to park his car in the prison motor park and was disallowed.

The fight, which paralysed activities for hours in the area, was said to have also left some naval officers as well as prison officials seriously injured.

Daily Trust learnt that following what the naval officer saw as an insult on his person by a female senior inspector of prisons, an argument ensued and more naval officers went to the scene to deal with the situation.

convinced. They reasoned that the absentee relevant officers are in possession of "some vital information and important documents without which the probe cannot proceed."

Chairman of the Senate ad-hoc committee on the PTDF, Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba said: "Our conclusion is that the DPR, NNPC and the minister of state for petroleum

their testimonies yesterday because of the Senate's decision to adjourn the hearing to today. They include the chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu; governor of the Central Bank, Prof. Charles Soludo and the immediate past chairman of the PTDF, Adamu Maina Waziri.

were freely used.

Daily Trust also learnt that it took the intervention of senior officers from both defence and Prisons headquarters in Abuja to bring the situation under control.

Some pressmen who were at the scene of the battle however said both parties are still trading blames.

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