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2 cops, 1 civilian die in Lagos shooting

By Eugene Agha, Lagos | Publish Date: Nov 20 2015 1:59AM | Updated Date: Nov 20 2015 2:38AM

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Two policemen attached to the FESTAC Division were wounded while a civilian died in a shooting by soldiers in the area yesterday.

Soldiers attached to the Ojo Cantonment of the Nigerian Army were said to be in FESTAC for a covert operation. They were part of the troops deployed to the 7th Avenue area of FESTAC Town to curtail activities of vandals.

It was gathered that the incident was instigated by a two-man robbery gang who had accosted a bank customer. The customer was said to be leaving the bank when the robbers snatched his money from him and fled on a motorcycle. Some passersby alerted the police who chased them but the robbers escaped.

Police spokesman, DSP Joseph Offor, described it as an act of omission rather than a commission.

"At FESTAC Town, a man was attacked after he had withdrawn money from a commercial bank. As he was leaving the bank with the money, two men on bikes accosted him and made away with the money. Some sympathisers alerted the police at FESTAC Division. By

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the time the police got there, the robbers had fled. Somehow, some mischievous guys in the area saw a moving Honda Accord and started shouting that he was the thief.

"Meanwhile, the driver of the Honda did not know he was the one they were talking about and was still moving at his own pace. When he got to the checkpoint mounted by the soldiers who were stationed along 7th Avenue because of pipeline vandals, he made to drive through.

But the soldiers thinking that the driver was truly a robber who was trying to escape, opened fire on the moving vehicle. The bullet hit two of our men and the civilian.

"Contrary to rumours making the rounds, our men didn't die. They were injured and are currently receiving treatment in hospital", he said.

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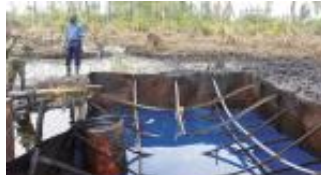
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