

Passengers stranded on Benin-Ore road as robbers kill 3 bus drivers

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

Thousands of passengers were left stranded on the Benin-Ore expressway in Ondo State yesterday when gunmen attacked some luxury buses heading to the East from Lagos, killing two drivers and a conductor.

Daily Trust learnt the incident happened around 2:30 am near Onisere village.

Two of the buses were marked 'Young Shall Grow' while another had 'Ifeanyi Chukwu'.

The robbery attack led to the blockage of the ever-busy expressway by some luxury bus operators for more than 10 hours leaving thousands of passengers stranded. It was also learnt that the attack happened in between two military checkpoints.

A witness who spoke to

Daily Trust on phone said the armed robbers initially snatched a Sienna Space bus which they used in blocking the luxury buses which left Jibowu in Lagos on Tuesday night.

According to the witness, the drivers sighted the road block and they sensed it was armed robbers but when they attempted to retreat, they were ambushed.

The armed robbers shot the driver of one of the buses who refused to open the passenger cabin for them.

A passenger who was in one of the buses with registration number SMK 732 XD said, "The robbers were armed and wearing army camouflage. They have already shot the driver of the Young Shall Grow bus behind us.

"The driver whose hand

was pierced by bullets would be in his 50s. He must have sacrificed himself to save the passengers because he was the only person who could open the passenger cabin.

"The robbers then turned to our bus. We were all lying face down already. They shot our driver also in the hand but they took to their heels when soldiers were approaching. After they shot our driver, we had to jump out through the windows into the bush. We all ran into different directions in the bush and I was even injured in the process."

One of the Young Shall Grow drivers who spoke with our correspondent on phone said the deceased drivers were his colleagues.

He said the management of the transport company has been duly informed of the situation.

Court remands man over rape of minor