

Robbers in police uniform kill butcher, injure others

AKURE, the Ondo State capital was thrown into mourning on Tuesday morning, as one of the prominent butchers, Kazeem Karonuwi, was killed by bandits along Akure-Ilesa Expressway.

Consequently, butchers and meat sellers in the area yesterday suspended business.

The Guardian learnt that several other people sustained various degrees of injuries from gunshots when the bandits shot sporadically at their vehicles to stop them.

A witness said that Karonuwi, a 32 year-old meat seller in Akure was slaughtered like ram by the suspected robbers when he was shot without the bullets entering him. He was said to have resisted the robbers' demand to release all the money in his possession to them.

It was further gathered that the victims had left Akure in about 14 Pick-Up vans about 4.00 a.m on that faithful day to buy cows without premonition of the impending danger in a village in Osun State.

At a bush near Ilesa

From Julius Alabi, Akure

about 5.00 a.m, the butchers ran into a barricade mounted by the bandits, who took position inside the bamboo trees.

The robbers, reportedly numbering about 20 dressed in Mobile Police (MOPOL) uniforms rained bullets on the victims after which they disposed them of an unspecified amount of money.

The President of the Butchers Association of Nigeria, Ondo State branch, Alhaji Sifau Alejelowo and the General Secretary, Alhaji Asimiyu Tella, who spoke with *The Guardian* described the incident as unfortunate and very shocking.

Alejelowo said that the incident was the first to happen to them, adding that it was very pathetic seeing a human being slaughtered in a callous manner.

The butchers' leader pleaded with the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr. Sunday Ehin-

dero and the Federal Government to find a lasting solution to the rampant cases of hoodlums operating in both military and police uniforms with

sophisticated weapons.

The remains of the victim (Karonuwi) were buried yesterday in Akure according to Moslem rites, while the other victims are now receiving medical attention in a private hospital.