

Mob lynches suspected robber operating in taxi-cab

IT was a dark weekend for the men of the underworld when an armed robbery suspect was on Sunday lynched and set ablaze by an irate mob as he allegedly attempted to rob a co-passenger in a taxi-cab along the Nnamdi Azikiwe highway Bypass, by Badiko in Kaduna.

The suspected robber, according to eyewitnesses, was in a taxi-cab with two other accomplices when they robbed a co-passenger in the vehicle of his mobile phone and money.

In the process of pushing the victim out of the moving vehicle after they had robbed him, he dragged along one of the robbers sitting in the front of the two-door car, while the

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other two drove away to escape being caught.

Though the robbers made a U-turn and drove past the mob to return the victim's stolen personal effects, their captured colleague was lynched and subsequently set ablaze by the side of the highway.

A team of policemen later visited the scene and took away the charred remains of the robber, which was deposited at the Barau Dikko Specialist Hospital.

The events of that day started at about 9.00 a.m.

when a red Golf single-door car stopped just before the U-turn and the passenger in the front stepped out to allow another passenger in the rear drop. At this stage, a struggle ensued attracting people to the vehicle.

On moving closer to the car, the crowd realised that the passenger and a robber were locked in the struggle.

The driver, perhaps realising the danger he was in, drove off leaving behind the apprehended robber.

The other robbers later came back in the same car and flung on the ground the mobile phone, money and other things earlier taken from the passenger. Yet,

their colleague was not released. Rather, he was taken to soldiers across the road that took him into a compound for interrogation.

"Realising that he did not intend to confess, the soldiers pushed him out back to the crowd who rained blows on him with various forms of weapons before lynching him and setting him ablaze," Amuda Maikudi, one of the witnesses told newsmen.

The Kaduna State Police Command Public Relations Officer, Yahaya Sa'ad, a deputy superintendent, confirmed the incident. He added that investigations had been launched into the case.