

Mass Robbery In Makurdi, Police Kill Six suspects

FROM
SIMEON NWAKAUDU
(MAKURDI) AND
TERHEMBA DAKA
(ABUJA)

ARMED robbers on Makurdi, Benue State capital came to a head early yesterday, when a 20-man gang stormed the Logo area of the town, robbing residents from house to house for hours, before anti robbery policemen arrived and killed six of the suspects. The policemen who arrived the area at about 3.00a.m, chased the robbers to Midway area, Makurdi, where a gun duel led to the death of six and the recovery of some of the loot.

A resident Mr. Sam Tyav told *The Guardian* that the robbers came to the area in full force, shooting indiscriminately into the air. On arrival, they were unchallenged as there were no policemen in the low-income area. As such, residents were at the mercy of the robbers, who confidently went from house to house taking away cash, electronics and other valuables.

A member of the Benue State House of Assembly, Dr. David Orjime, who resides in the area, was visited by the robbers, who after robbing him of

N400, 000, his laptop and mobile phones, shot him in the thigh in the presence of members of his family.

The State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Samuel Jinadu confirmed the mass robbery and took journalists to the State Criminal Investigation Department, where the bodies of the six slain were displayed.

For hours, hundreds of residents trooped to the State Police Command to see the bodies while many residents rejoiced over the killing of the suspected robbers, while some of their relatives who also came to the state police headquarters wept uncontrollably.

The last few days have

been hellish for Makurdi residents, as robbers had been having a field day tormenting residents, without adequate response from the police. It is now common to hear announcements of vehicles snatched by armed robbers on the state radio. Nightlife, which used to be a major feature of residents, had suddenly disappeared in the last three weeks.

On Wednesday, some robbers who operated on the Makurdi-Daudu road shot and killed a commercial driver in his vehicle.

Worried by the development, the State Security Council has restricted the operations of commercial cyclists from 6.00am to 8.00p.m.

In Abuja the Police Anti-

Robbery Squad claimed it smashed robbery gangs resulting in the arrest of 42 suspects and recovery of arms and ammunition, stolen cars and other valuable properties within the last two months in the city.

The commissioner of Police, FCT Command, Mr. Haruna John, while parading the suspects stated that the special anti-robbery squad also foiled five robbery attempts and recovered 51 vehicles. He said more and more people come to transact business and as is expected of any growing city, men of the underworld cash in because of their lust for the wealth that they did not work for.

Trial of Toddler's Suspected Kidnapper Begins In Rivers

FROM
KELVIN EBIRI
(PORT HARCOURT)

ONE of the suspects in the abduction of a two year old child, Samuel Ovunda Amadi, a prince was yesterday arraigned before a Federal High Court in Port Harcourt,

Rivers State.

The suspect, Mr. Azubuike C. Ihemeje, who was brought to court amid tight security, is facing a two-count charge of unlawful abduction.

Gunmen had on July 12, snatched the son of the monarch of Iriebe Community in the state

while he was being driven to school in Port Harcourt. His kidnappers later called the parents to demand a N50 million ransom.

Federal prosecutor Tony Umana said Ihemeje had conspired with others who are now at large to kidnap and unlawfully imprison the child. The