

Robbers kill five policemen in Enugu

WHEN they struck almost at the same spot near the Oji River, along the Enugu-Onitsha Highways some months ago, three policemen on duty at the checkpoint were killed. Their guns and all the cash in the bullet-riddled van heading for Enugu were carted away by the robbers.

Yesterday morning, daredevil armed robbers returned to the same area. By the time they were through with their nefarious activity, five police-

*From Lawrence Njoku,
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men, comprising those on duty at the checkpoint and their colleagues escorting the bullion van had reportedly been killed.

Enugu State Commissioner of Police, Suleiman Fakai, who confirmed the incident, however, said he was yet to get the details of the attack and number of victims.

A reinforcement of policemen was later dispatched to the area yesterday.

While details of the

attack were sketchy as at press time, eyewitnesses said the robbers, who apparently laid ambush for the van, opened fire as soon as they sighted it. The van was reportedly on its way to Awka in Anambra State.

The robbers then blew open the van's safe and made away with an undisclosed amount of money.

The incident, which occurred at about 11 a.m. engendered panic and confusion along the busy expressway, as motorists

either abandoned their vehicles and fled into the nearby bushes or reversed and headed back to the way they came from.

Another source said the bandits, dressed in military and mobile police uniforms, operated with sophisticated weapons and fired at the van from a nearby bush.

The driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle, which rammed into a ditch by the roadside.

The Ezeagu/Oji River axis of Enugu State has

become notorious for attacks on bullion vans despite the presence of a police detective college and a number of checkpoints manned by mobile policemen.

Last March, robbers killed six policemen, a bank official and a filling station attendant in the same area in a futile attempt to rob a bullion van.

Govt, states meet on teachers' strike

*From Bridget Onochie,
Abuja*

AMEETING of federal and state government officials on the on-going teachers' strike ended yesterday in Abuja without any concrete resolution to meet the teachers' demand. Chaired by the Secretary to

which is the body statutorily charged with the responsibility of making recommendations on such matters was however, of the