

Five die in Lagos bus raid

By Alex Olise

NO fewer than five dead persons suspected to be victims of armed robbery were found on the Oshodi-Apapa Expressway in Lagos on the eve of the nation's Independence anniversary.

It was learnt that the bodies were victims of the men of the underworld, who rob passengers on commercial buses. The bodies were said to have been thrown out of a bus while on high speed after they were stripped of their money and other valuables.

One of the victims told *The Guardian* that he was lucky because he was also pushed down from the bus around

12.30a.m. According to him, one of the victims who refused to submit to the robbers was shot before he was pushed down.

"We boarded the bus at about 10.30p.m at Coconut Bus Stop, Apapa," he narrated. "We were heading to Oshodi and as we approached the Mile Two head bridge, one of the occupants ordered the driver to stop and they asked us to bring out our mobile phones and cash.

"But most of the occupants refused, so they shot at one

of them. The bullet hit another before they ransacked all of us and pushed us down at different locations. That is why you can see dead bodies everywhere."

Meanwhile, Lagos residents have urged the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Marvel Akpoyibo, to order his men to beef up security across the metropolis. Residents who spoke to *The Guardian* yesterday said they were not happy with the increase in armed banditry on daily basis within the state.

The commissioner, just back from a security meeting

in Abuja, has directed all divisional police officers to ensure that all officers patrol their jurisdiction 24 hours. According to a source, any area that records serious crime will get sanction from the police command. The sanction may be positing of affected officers from Lagos to tougher terrain, which most policemen may not like.

It was learnt that the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Ogbonna Onovo, who chaired the security meeting recently in Abuja, was not impressed with the fresh activities of criminals in Lagos State.