

Gunmen kill policeman, girl, injure others in Kaduna

From **Saxone Akhaine**, Kaduna

UNKNOWN gunmen at the weekend killed a policeman and a girl at Ungwar Dosa, a suburb of Kaduna metropolis. They also inflicted severe injuries on another policeman, a woman and her daughter.

The incident heightened tension in the state after a period of calm since the death of Governor Patrick Yakowa.

An eyewitness told journalists that the gunmen came on a motorcycle and shot the two policemen who were on duty

at the area. A woman and her daughter, who were said to be within the vicinity of the incident, were hit by stray bullets and in the process, it was learnt that they sustained injuries.

According to the eyewitness, "the residents of the area were caught unawares as the gunmen came as *Okada* riders but before we could know what was happening we heard gunshots that lasted for several minutes. They gunned down the two policemen on sight.

"It's like they came mainly for

the policemen as they opened fire on the two policemen. I believe that they never meant to shoot the women. She was just unlucky."

The Kaduna State Command Police Public Relations Officer, Aminu Lawan, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), confirmed the incident.

He said that the command had launched an investigation to unravel the circumstances surrounding the attack on the two policemen whose ranks were unknown as at the time of filing

this report.

Lawan pointed out that the two policemen engaged the gunmen in a shootout and in the process one of the policemen died on the spot while the other one sustained severe injuries.

However, Lawan confirmed the death of a six-year-old girl who was killed by a stray bullet during the gun battle.

He said he: "The incident happened at a police check-point at about 8.30 p.m. on Friday. The gunmen came on a motorcycle and immediately

opened fire on the officers who were at the checkpoint. It was in the process of engaging the assailants in a gun battle that we lost one of our men. However, the gunmen escaped with bullet wounds and we are trailing them."

Meanwhile, Governor Muktar Ramalan Yero has visited the scene of the incident and an undisclosed hospital in the metropolis where the woman and her daughter were said to have been receiving treatment. The governor promised to settle the hospital bill of the victims.