

Meiran Residents Lay Ambush For Armed Robbers

By Wisdom Patrick,
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• Roast Three Suspects

Residents of Meiran, a suburb of Lagos, recently took their destiny in their hands as they engaged a gang of armed robbers that had been terrorising the area since beginning of the year in a fierce battle that saw three of the robbers publicly roasted.

In a commando style, the

residents waylaid the bandits, 18 of them, when they came for their usual raid in the area. A resident of Opeyemi Close, Meiran, Alhaji Lateef Opeyemi, who witnessed the battle, said: "Since the police could not help us, we decided to help ourselves and I think it was

worth the trouble and the risk."

During the bloody confrontation, three of the hoodlums were hacked down and set ablaze while others fled with various injuries. Alhaji Opeyemi said residents of the area decided to stand up to the bandits after majority of them

had lost their valuables, including cash, handsets, cars, among others, to the robbers.

He added that several reports of robbery incidents made to the police at Meiran Police Station and Area "G" Command in Ogba did not change anything, and the robbers kept harassing and dispossessing them of their belongings. "It was at this point that our youths decided they would face the gangsters when next they show their faces in the area," Alhaji Opeyemi told *Daily Independent*.

As a sign of warning, the youths posted bills at strategic points within Meiran and environs, warning the hoodlums not to contemplate coming to the area. But the robbers did not yield to the warning and eventually met their Waterloo when they tested the combat readiness of the youths.

Alhaji Opeyemi, who is also chairman of the Community Development Association (CDA) in the area, said the youths had laid ambush for the hoodlums following intelligence report that the same gang was going to invade the area for the fifth time since

the beginning of this year.

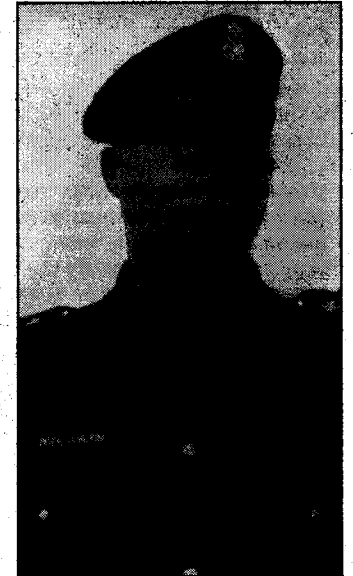
"You see, it was God that handed over these bastards to us. We have done nothing wrong to deserve what they did to us or what they have been doing to us since January 12 this year. But unknown to them, we were determined to put a stop to their constant raids in our area. When they came we attacked them with axes, machetes, iron bars, bows and arrows," he disclosed.

According to the CDA boss, the robbers held people as hostages when they arrived and ordered people to lead them to their respective homes. "As they were going, they did not know we had prepared for them. So, our boys and some of us barricaded the only motorable road that leads to the area and we started shouting thief! Thief!! When they heard this they were confused at the number of people shouting, so they tried to run away, but we blocked the way and that was when their trouble started."

Alhaji Opeyemi stated further that to their dismay, the robbers were with only one rifle and other weapons such as axes and swords. "When the man that had the gun fired a shot, the robbers were handicapped and were looking for escape route, which we ensured they never accessed

and that was how we chased them away and also killed the unlucky three. We have no regret killing them because they had made life unbearable for us all this while."

When *Daily Independent* spoke with the Lagos police image-maker, Mr. Bode Ojajuni, over the incident, he said he only heard about the incident from some policemen attached to the area, but was yet to get official briefing from the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), and until that happens "I would not be able to say more," he said.



•Ojajuni

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