

Suspected Smugglers Kill Two-month-old Baby

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Suspected smugglers have killed a two-month-old baby.

The sad incident occurred along Seme /Badagary Expressway.

The suspected killers were said to be fleeing from security operatives.

Trying to escape from the security agents, *Daily Independent* gathered, the suspected smugglers shot sporadically into the air, and in the process hit the baby strapped to its mother's back.

They suddenly emerged on Kankan Road on top speed in a white unregistered BMW car.

Police sources could not ascertain which security outfit was chasing them.

A Prado jeep purportedly used in pursuing the alleged culprits disappeared minutes after a stray bullet hit the baby.

Witnesses at the scene of the incident told *Daily Independent*

that passers-by, who were enraged by the incident, quickly blocked the highway on both sides to prevent the gunmen from escaping. "When they (gunmen) discovered that both sides of the road had been blocked, they stopped their car and tried to escaped on foot, but they were pursued by people until two of them were apprehended", a police source revealed.

The suspects were taken to Kankan Police Station, where one of them told the police that they were not smugglers.

They claimed they were "specialists" hired by individuals and companies to bring the vehicles they bought in Cotonou, Benin Republic into Nigeria.

"That this type of thing happened is indeed regrettable. We never intended to kill that innocent baby and we did not fire that shot, because none of us has a gun", one of the suspects, a Ghanaian named Jamiu Musa, said.

Musa said he surrendered

himself because of the dead baby.

"I wanted to come and explain things, because the next thing they would say is that we are armed robbers and that we killed the baby.

"That is the picture those chasing us would paint for the world to believe.

"I want to contest such statement if suddenly it is made," he added.

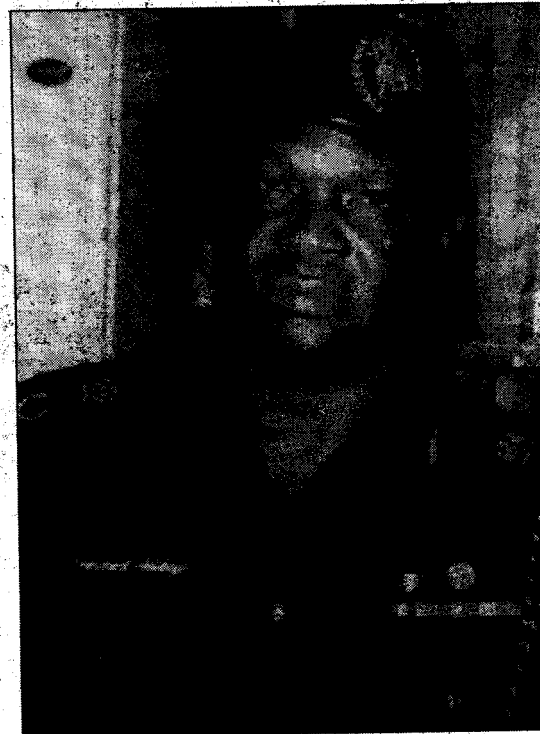
Before the two men were handed over to the police, angry members of the public had descended on them with different weapons.

A police source informed that the suspects were treated at Badagary General Hospital.

Meanwhile, police authorities have denied the involvement of their men in the shooting incident.

Police spokesman in Lagos, Bode Ojajuni, said investigation had been conducted on policemen on patrol in the area.

He added: "We have found out that none of them was involved in the shooting incident"



•Emmanuel Adebayo, Lagos CP