

Robbers Kill Three Women In Lagos

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Three women, two of them pregnant, were killed penultimate Tuesday by armed robbers at Paul Street in New Oko-oba, a Lagos suburb, when in an attempt to escape with their loots they shot indiscriminately in all directions.

A witness and a resident of the affected street told *Daily Independent* that the robbers invaded the place at exactly 9.30 p.m. shooting sporadically into the air to scare residents before attacking their targets.

He said the robbers successfully entered apartments to rob residents of money and

GSM handsets including a Nokia communicator valued at N120,000. It was gathered that one of the residents had called the state's commissioner of police, who sent a radio message around, ordering all anti-crime patrol vehicles to cordon off the area and ensure the crooks did not escape.

The witness, who gave his name as James Popoola, said that the Tuesday incident was the third in two months and "this is happening just a stone's throw from the Oko-Oba Police Station. The ugliest part is that these boys were shooting any how they liked and I am sure the police heard the sound of their guns but did nothing."

It was also learnt that the criminals had raided other homes with impunity after locking the gate to the street and chasing away members of the vigilance group. It was further gathered that it was when the hoodlums were about getting away that they heard police vehicle siren coming toward their direction that tried to run away, but a resident had locked the main gate, which made it difficult for them to escape.

"It was at this point they started shooting at all directions and eventually broke the padlock and escaped, but not before killing three persons as they shot in all directions," the eyewitness said.

The witness could not tell whether or not the victims were residents of Paul Street, but added that it was unfortunate that human lives no longer have value in the country as armed robbers could kill even very close to a police station.

A policeman at Oko-Oba Police Station, who would not want his name on print, said that police at the station actually got the information but could not do anything partly because they had no logistics to match the hoodlums.

"Imagine, in the whole of this station we have only five serviceable guns and four pistols. Of the four pistols, three have been allocated to officers as service

pistols, which means they go home with their guns. Even if they leave them behind, do you go and attack somebody holding AK-47 with possibly over 100 round of ammunition with a pistol? That is the situation."

Investigation also revealed that the station has no vehicle, but usually hijacked commercial buses whenever they are going any assignment.

Police image-maker in the state, Mr. Bode Ojajuni, when contacted said the police wer not aware of the killings, but added that the issue of robbery at Oko-Oba was receiving attention from the state command, "very soon things would change. We want to take the battle to them (robbers) in their enclave."