Police, Robbers In Gun Duel

By Femi Ogbonnikan, Reporter, Lagos

Police in Lagos at the weekend shot dead two bandits during crossfire.

Informed sources said the gang, which was operating in a commercial bus at Okota Road, Amuwo-Odofin, engaged the police in a gun duel during a chase.

It was gathered that while a team of anti-robbery operatives attached to Amuwo-Odofin Division was chasing the gang following a tip-ff, the robbers, who did not know the occupants were armed policemen, blocked the road with a view to robbing passengers aboard.

Four Shot Dead

But unfortunately for them the passengers turned out to be anti-robbery operatives, and in a bid to escape the robbers shot at the police team during which crossfire ensued.

At the end of the shootout, two members of the gang were arrested with bullet wounds, while their accomplices escaped into a nearby bush.

Two locally made guns, cut to size, were recovered from the gang.

However, the arrested robbers later died while being rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Lagos State Police Command

Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni (SP), confirmed the incident. He said the corpses of the two bandits had been deposited at a public mortuary in Lagos for postmortem examination.

In another development, a team of anti-robbery operatives on routine patrol at Old Ojo Road has intercepted the rider of a Frajend Motorcycle marked QP 730 KTU (Lagos), conveying a passenger.

When the motorcyle was stopped for check at Agboju Market bus stop, a passenger holding a black polythene bag

refused to co-operate and asked the rider to speed off.

But they were caught after a hot chase at <u>Demorose</u> Junction during which there was exchange of fire with the police team.

They were, however, unlucky, as the police shot both of them dead.

One K2 rifle marked 301071, a double barrel gun, cut to size, and 51 live cartridges were recovered from them.

Sixteen rounds of .9mm live ammunition and two Nokia handsets were also recovered from them.

Ojajuni confirmed the report and said investigation had commenced on the matter.