

# Mob Sets Police Station Ablaze In Lagos

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Ijaiye/Ojokoro Police Station in Ifako Ijaiye Local Government Area of Lagos has been set on fire by a mob protesting the alleged killing of a motorist by a Policeman on Thursday.

A competent police source, who disclosed this to *Saturday Independent*, said that the police had a gun battle with men of the underworld who were operating in the area. "We got a distress call that armed robbers were operating somewhere in a private building and that they were also planning to attack a petrol station adjacent the house so my men responded."

The source added that when the armed robbers sighted the police patrol van they opened fire and the police responded, but that in the process the innocent member of the public was allegedly hit by the police bullet and the fellow died instantly.

Residents of the area told *Saturday Independent* that it is difficult to say which gun killed the man, "you can not say whether it was the armed robbers' gun or that of the police that killed the man because there was confusion in the entire area as people were scampering for safety."

It was gathered that, the robbers ran toward the popular slum called Yankari within the area and from that point policemen could no longer trace them as they allegedly escaped. It was gathered that following the killing, a mob mobilised from the same Yankari and went to attack the station on the allegation that police had killed a member of their union.

When *Saturday Independent* visited the station on Friday, seven vehicles including one of the police patrol vans had been destroyed by the mob, while over 14 policemen sustained injuries and were taken to the Hospital close to the station. The rampaging crowd also burnt down the only food canteen within the police station.

It was also gathered that hoodlums took advantage of the confusion to plunder shops and rob innocent people of valuables, including handsets and money.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) in charge of Area "G" in Ogba, Mr. Mobolaji Odesanya, who confirmed that attack, added that the situation has been brought under control and that five persons suspected to be the brain behind the mayhem are in the police net.