

END OF THE ROAD FOR ROBBERS

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•Suspected robbers paraded by the police

By Andrew Utulu/Lagos

It was a sad day for a gang of robbers, which operates in Lagos, Ogun and Ondo states penultimate Saturday, as they met their waterloo in the hands of the Special Anti Robbery Squad of the Lagos State Police Command led by Mr. Abba Kyari, a Superintendent of Police (SP). Some members of the gang lost their lives in a shoot-out with the police.

Information about the gang and plot to rob an overseas returnee coming through Murtala Muhammed Airport to Ogun State had reached the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Umar Manko, who detailed Kyari to be on the look out for the robbers. Kyari was said to have detailed a crack SARS operative, Adetarami Adegbehin, and team to ensure the plot was not only aborted, but that the gang members be arrested and brought to book.

The gang members, who were thought to be five in number, turn out to be more, including a woman said to be a Beninoise.

Eyewitnesses told Saturday Independent that the first onslaught against the gang took place at the tollgate bordering Lagos and Ogun states on the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway and under the Sango Ota Bridge.

It was gathered that the robbers were on the trail of the overseas returnee when they came face to face with the police who was monitoring them.

Recovered from the robbers were two pistols, one single barrel locally made gun, over 30 rounds of ammunition and charms.

The incident took place between 11a.m. and 12noon on Saturday.

After the shootout, Saturday Independent visited Sango Ota Area Command headquarters, a senior police source confirmed that there was a shootout between men of the underworld and the police, adding that the shootout was between SARS from Lagos and robbers, who were trailing victims from Lagos.

He said the SARS team was trailing the robbers from Murtala Muhammed International Airport when information was received that robbers had completed plans to rob an overseas returnee and had even contacted the victim's driver for assistance.

The robbers were said to have positioned themselves at tollgate and under the bridge at Sango.

The two robbers positioned at the tollgate were to inform the robbers at the Sango Ota Bridge through phone calls when the victim gets to the tollgate and at the same time follow behind until they struck. Unknown to them, the SARS team was monitoring their activities.

The two robbers positioned at the tollgate were first picked up by the police, as they trailed their victim towards the bridge. The other robbers on seeing the police with their arrested colleagues, opened fire and in the ensuing gun duel, three robbers were gunned down while two were arrested.

Saturday Independent learnt that the arrested suspects confessed to the crime and previous one, adding that they were at the scene to rob a prominent man coming from abroad.

They were said to have led the SARS team to other members of the gang and the team had to stay in the bush for three days. The investigation led to the arrest of an international female suspected criminal, a heavily pregnant Beninoise identified as Asabi Ojenike, 35, alleged to be a receiver of properties acquired through armed robbery and also supplies arms and ammunition to robbers through the porous borders.

She was arrested along with another partner in crime named Samsudeen Giwa, a.k.a Oba, who allegedly confessed to series of robberies in Lagos, Ogun and Ondo states.

Giwa was arrested in his base at Onihale, Ifon on Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway.

Investigation is still on.

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