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Robbery victims' close shave with death in Lagos

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By Andrew Utulu/Lagos

For Onwe Chibuzor, it was God that spared his life. Doctors at a private hospital in **Iju-Ishaga area of Lagos State** are battling to save his life. He was shot on the head **last Monday morning when robbers invaded Iju-Ishaga, a Lagos suburb.**

Saturday Independent learnt that doctors struggled for several hours last Tuesday to extract pellets of bullets from his head.

The victim, who lives and owns a foodstuff shop at 9 **Ogunbusola Street**, was among those attacked when armed robbers attacked the area at about 1a.m. on Monday.

During the attack, a night guard, Adebayo Akinola, was shot dead. He was buried in Ogun State thereafter on Tuesday.

The robbers, who raided the ground floors of the two houses consisting of 10 rooms each, also injured several other persons including security guards.

A resident at No. 9, John Wale Olubile, said the robbers entered the building after breaking the entrance door. According to him, "They entered the rooms one after the other, they kicked me and ordered me to lie down. They asked me to bring the money. I told them I don't have money. They collected my phone and injure me. The robber that entered my room was holding a gun, it was about 1.50 a.m. I was the only person in my room when they came. It was God who saved me."

The landlord, Peter Abayomi Oduoye, who lives upstairs, said when he heard the noise at about 2a.m., he woke up.

"They were unable to come upstairs and I had to call the secretary of the Landlord Association, who called the police," he said.

Mrs. Godwin Sarah, a resident of No. 7 who was attacked along with her husband said: "When we heard the noise, I did not understand where the noise was coming from, until they broke

our door. One of them entered our room with a gun. They were about five armed men. They broke our glass table. I was begging them; they pointed a gun at my husband. They collected N25,000 from us, they did not beat me and my husband but they entered and robbed all the 10 rooms on the ground floor.

The most hit streets were Ogunbusola and Oguntade streets. It was at the junction connecting both streets that the guard was killed.

Eyewitnesses said the robbers came with three vehicles, one of them, a jeep. They raided two houses belonging to two brothers, on Ogunbusola Street and robbed residents of unspecified amount of monies and properties.

Another victim, a guard identified as Tajudeen, was seriously injured while another man, said to have been hit with object believe to be charm, started behaving strangely.

It was gathered that the police were called while the operation was on and according to the police, four patrol vehicles with anti-robbery policemen were dispatched from Red House and Abattoir divisions, but the robbers escaped before the police arrived the place.

When Saturday Independent visited the area on , neighbours said the slain guard's remains were taken to Agoro near Sango Ota, for burial that morning.

When contacted, the Divisional police Officer, DPO, Red House Police Division, Ajimuda Olafunji, said he was not authorised to speak to the press.

The Deputy Public Relations Officer, Ozoani Damasus, who confirmed the incident, said it would have been worse were it not for the quick intervention of the police which force the robbers to flee.

Residents appealed to the Lagos State Government and the police to come to their aid, as over five robbery incidents have taken place in the area recently.

A landlord at Aliu Street said, on the same day, robbers invaded the street and shot at a guard four times. The landlord, who did not disclose his name, said the guard is now at an unnamed hospital.

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