

Robbers kill two policemen in Lagos

IT was a bloody Sunday in Lagos yesterday. Robbers killed an Inspector of Police and a bullion van driver - in a movie-like operation that caused hours of traffic jam.

The incident happened around 12 noon at Pako, Oke-Afa Junction in Isolo,

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a Lagos suburb.

The bullion driver and the officer were driving from the gate of Jakande Estate, Oke-Afa, where they had gone to pick up sales proceeds from a popular fast foods centre.

The robbers, led by a woman, at the Oke-Afa Junction, blocked the van and opened fire on the driver and the police officer, killing them instantly. They broke the door of the bullion van and carted away the money inside.

When *The Nation* got to the scene of the incident some minutes after the robbers had left, the bodies were yet to be evacuated. The driver's side of the bullion van was riddled with bullets. The tyres were punctured.

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The inspector had a big gaping hole on his forehead. His body was also riddled with bullets. The driver of the van, wearing a light blue Kaftan, which had turned red with blood, had his body riddled with bullets.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) for Okota Police Station was at the scene. The bodies were later evacuated in a white Nissan Urvan vehicle.

The bodies were still at the Ikotun police station late in the evening. They were to be moved to the Ikeja General hospital mortuary.

However, police authorities at the Ikotun division were having difficulty getting the N100,000 deposit the hospital demanded to accept the bodies.

Police spokesman Olubode Ojajuni, a Superintendent of Police (SP), could not comment on the incident as he was still trying to contact the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) and the Area Commander (AC) to get the true picture.

The command's anti-robbery battle seems to be in course. Eight more suspected robbers since the Commissioner of Police, Mr Mohammed Abubakar, paraded 10 other suspects last week.

Ojajuni said another robbery suspect was shot dead

on Adeniji-Adele Road on the Island, during an operation.

He said one locally made pistol was recovered from the dead suspect, adding that other members of the gang escaped after exchanging gunfire with the police.

He said six other robbery suspects were arrested in a Peugeot 305 saloon car with reg. No XG 942 LND on the Orile-Iganmu intersection by a stop-and-search police patrol team from Iponri division.

"There were eight occupants of the car. On sighting the police, two of the occupants jumped out of the car and escaped. The six others were arrested," Ojajuni said.

He said one locally made double-barrelled pistol and five cartridges were recovered from the suspects.

Ojajuni said two more robbery suspects in a Mitsubishi saloon car were arrested at Itoikin junction in Epe by another stop-and-search police patrol team while planning to carry out an operation.

He said one locally made shotgun and three live cartridges were recovered from the two suspects, adding that all the suspects had made useful statements that would help police investigations.