

One killed as police, vigilant group tackle robbers

A ROBBERY attempt on a supermarket along Isheri Road, Ojodu, Lagos was foiled last week Thursday by policemen from the nearby Isheri Police Station, and a vigilant group. One of the bandits was killed in the incident.

The hoodlums, numbering about six, stormed the busy supermarket around 7p.m, armed with locally made double barrel guns.

The Nation gathered that the bandits came on three operational motorcycles, and they concealed their guns inside their clothes.

An eyewitness told *The Nation* that when the bandits arrived the supermarket, they pretended as if they wanted to buy some goods, but when they entered, they asked everybody inside to lie face down and surrender everything in their possession.

However, as the operation was going on, a security alarm installed inside the supermarket was triggered-off; and out of panic, the robbers started shooting into the air, threatening to kill anybody who might want to resist them.

This attracted some members of vigilant group in the area, who engaged the hoodlums in a gun duel that lasted for more than 20 minutes.

It was during the cross-fire that one of the robbers was killed.

The Nation's findings revealed that it was while the gun battle between the robbers and the vigilant group lasted that a distress call was put across to the Divisional Police Station by some concerned residents.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of the area responded promptly by sending a team of anti-robbery policemen to the scene, led by Mr. Mike Adeniyi, a chief superintendent of Police (CSP).

Eyewitness account disclosed that immediately the robbers sighted the police patrol vehicle, they took to their heels. But as they were trying to escape, two of them were badly hit by bullets from the policemen.

Among those caught up in the robbery attempt on the supermarket was a retired Army officer, who would not want his name to be mentioned.

Recovered from the robbers were one of their operational motorcycles, 15 live cartridges and a locally made gun.

Police say they are still on the trail of the gang members who are on the run.