

Two dead as police, robbers clash in Anambra

TWO persons were reportedly killed yesterday at the commercial city of Onitsha, Anambra State, as the police engaged robbers in a shoot-out.

Seven others sustained gunshot wounds.

One of those killed is a member of the four-man robbery gang. A vigilance group member suspected to be a member of the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) was also killed.

The robbers reportedly attacked a telecommunications company.

According to a reliable source, policemen from the

From Adimike George,
Onitsha

Patrol and Guard Office at the Central Police Station Onitsha were alerted.

Led by the Divisional Crime Officer, Kabir Umar Farouk, the police swooped on the robbers at the scene of the incident at 20 Ifejika Street.

In the ensuing gun duel, it was gathered that two of the robbers escaped through Bida Road using a motorbike which they snatched from a cyclist. One of them with severe gun wounds allegedly mixed up with the crowd.

The owner of the shop, Benjamin Ngene, said the armed robbers held the workers and customers of the telecommunications outfit hostage for about 10 minutes before the arrival of the police.

He said the gunmen stole about N4 million from his office.

The victim added that the robbers beat up his workers and customers.

The police said on sighting the patrol van, the robbers opened fire on them. One of the robbers was shot dead on the spot. Others es-

caped with gunshot wounds.

The vigilance group member shot by the robbers was simply identified as Uba.

Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations D.C Makama and the Onitsha Police Area Commander Larry Osita confirmed the incident.

The police chiefs hailed the gallantry of their men and urged the public to volunteer information to the police.

Two AK47 rifles, four magazines and 66 rounds of ammunition were recovered at the scene of the robbery.

Police spokesman Emeka Chukwuemeka also confirmed the incident and assured that the police would arrest the fleeing robbers.