

Commuters groan as drivers again block Benin-Lagos highway

•Robbers kill one

■ Osagie OTABOR, Benin ■

FOR the second time in one month, luxury bus drivers protested the incessant armed robbery attacks along the Benin-Lagos express road.

① The drivers used their buses to block the highway thereby causing traffic gridlock for several hours.

They were protesting the killing of a bus conductor and two other persons by armed robbers on the highway at about 4 a.m.

② It will be recalled that the drivers last month blocked the highway over the killing of two persons by armed robbers.

It took the intervention of the Edo State Government and the State Commissioner of Police, Haliru Gwandu, before they left the road.

An eyewitness said two others were taken to an undisclosed hospital for treatment.

Drivers of distribution vehicles of major newspapers including the *Sun Newspaper*; *Nigerian Tribune*; *Complete Sport*; *Daily Independence*; *Guardian* and *Business Day* were among those held in the traffic.

Mr. Sulaman Tajudeen, a driver with the Complete Sports who arrived Benin City at 2:20pm said the luxury bus drivers blocked the road in protest of those who were shot and killed and the frequent robbery attacks on the Benin-Lagos express way.

Tajudeen said the protesters were not willing to leave the road until the government put an end to the robbery attack on the road.

He said the aggrieved drivers had to ask stranded passengers for contributions towards paying a sum of N35,000 as deposit demanded by the hospital for the treatment of injured victims.

Contacted, Edo Police spokesman, Moses Nkombe, said it was a conductor in one of the buses that was killed by robbers.

Nkombe, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) said the robbers shot at the bus because the driver refused to stop.

He said policemen on patrol swiftly got to the scene but the robbers had fled.