

Robbers invade community

From BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

NO fewer than two persons were feared dead in Ibadan at the weekend when armed robbers invaded Sabo community and carted away huge amount of money running to millions of Naira mostly in foreign currencies from bureau-de-change operators in the area.

Following the invasion of the area, hundreds of the residents in Sabo took to the street to protest the attack by the armed robbers, forcing commercial activities in and around the area to paralyze for hours.

New Nigerian reliably gathered that the armed robbers numbering over 40 stormed Sabo at about 1 a.m on Saturday firing several gunshots into the air to scare the people of the area after which they invaded the bureau-de-change centres in the area.

Sources said all efforts by the people of the area to resist the robbers and alert the police on time failed as the robbers were said to have for hours embarked on sporadic shooting, around the area to ensure that they were not disturbed in their operation.

It was learnt that during the sporadic shooting four people were hit by bullets with one of them said to have died on the spot while the remaining three were rushed to hospital after the robbers left the scene. The victims were said to be on danger list at the time of filling this report.

Our correspondent learnt that the robbers on sighting the police arriving the area, engaged them in a gun battle which lasted for almost 25 minutes during which some of the robbers were said to have sustained various degree of wounds.

The robbers were said to have perforated the bodies of the police vehicles sighted during the operations with several gun shots fired at the police while attempting to escape from the area.

New Nigerian also gathered at Sabo that the people of the area put up a spirited effort at alerting the police immediately the robbers arrived the area but there was no timely response, thereby making the robbers to have the opportunity of carting away the huge sum of money.

Eye witness account stressed that the robbers during the raid enveloped the entire Sabo with sporadic gunshot thus causing panic with majority of the people in the area running helter-skelter during the operation.

Contacted, Oyo State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Olu Akinmoladun, con-

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firmed the invasion of Sabo by the armed robbers, saying the information available to him on the robbery was sketchy.

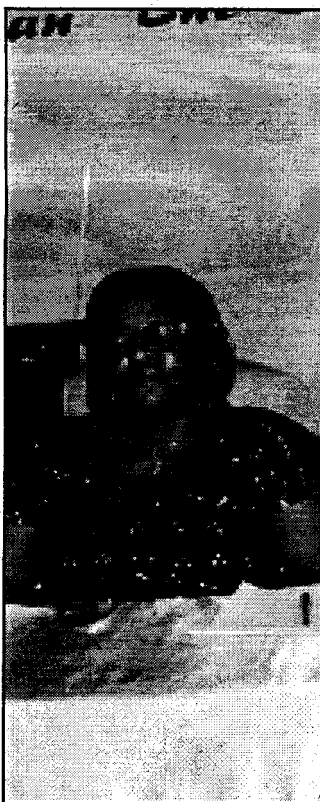
The PPRO said the police had already made some arrests concerning the robbery and that investigations were still on.

ASP Akinmoladun also confirmed that the robbers during the operation escaped with some money carted from various bureau-de-change in the area.

He however maintained that the police could not disclose the actual amount carted away by the robbers during the raid.

It was learnt that the protest by Sabo community over the robbery was as a result of an alleged delay in the arrival of the police to the area as many people in the area were said to have climbed the roof of a mosque in the area from where they started calling for help from the nearby Mokola Police Station, which they claimed did not come on time.

New Nigerian reliably gathered that one of the shops raided by the robbers was owned by a bureau-de-change operator, who had just returned from a trip with huge sum of hard currencies.



From left: Director of Public Services, Mr. Ayo Oluyemi, and Odumusi (right) during a mi

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TARABA State Action Congress has protested the disqualification of Vice President Atiku Abubakar as its presidential candidate in the April general election.

The state party chairman, Alhaji Isa Munga, led the protest march to the Taraba headquarters of INEC office