

crimereports

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I came to Nigeria to marry my fiancée —Suspected *bureau de change* robber

THE two foreign nationals, Adamu Bamako and Ibrahim Tanko, who were the surviving robbery suspects among the six that the Special Anti-Robbery Squad in Abeokuta had an encounter with last Sunday, have denied knowing the intention of four other men that were felled by bullets during an encounter with the operatives last Sunday.

While Bamako, who said he was a Nigerien citizen residing in Benin Republic, claimed that he was in Nigeria to observe marriage rites with his fiancée at Iseyin town in Oyo State, Tanko said he was in Randa area of Abeokuta to sell the cow he stole from his father's herd.

It will be recalled that SARS operatives, led by the Officer-in-Charge, Mohammed Tijani, a Superintendent of Police, reportedly engaged in a shoot-out with a gang of suspected bureau-de-change robbers at Itoku market Abeokuta, last Sunday, during which four of them died after sustaining gunshot injuries while Bamako and Tanko were seriously injured.

Crime Reports learnt that the police got information that the gang was in Abeokuta from across the border to attack **Bureau de Change** operators at Itoku market. The police spokesperson in Ogun State, Olumuyiwa Adejobi, said that based on the information, the SARS operatives laid an ambush at Itoku Underbridge.

He said that the gang and the police had a gunfire exchange, during which four members of the six-man gang died. The two injured ones were paraded last Tuesday at SARS office at Magbon, Abeokuta while the PPRO said that an AK 47 rifle, a pistol and 64 rounds of live ammunition were covered from under the seat of the car in which the gang rode.

Though both admitted

being asked to join the deceased suspects, they refused to disclose their destination to **Crime Reports** during an interview with them.

Bamako, who spoke through an interpreter and gave his age as 26, told **Crime Reports**: "I am from Niger Republic but I am domiciled in Benin Republic. I rode my motorcycle from Ajase in Benin Republic to Nigeria with the intention of going to Iseyin to marry.

"I met Tanko at Randa, Abeokuta and stayed with him. Later, four Fulani men came in a car and asked us to follow them. I left my motorcycle and went with them. They took us to a beer parlour where we had drinks." He however refused to disclose where they were being taken and what they were going to do.

Through the interpreter, Tanko (29) also said that he was residing at Parakou, a border community between Nigeria and Benin Republic along Ilesha/



Ibrahim Tanko (left) and Adamu Bamako

Olodo/Imeko axis. He revealed that his father was a cattle breeder but the man did not know that he was coming to Randa in Abeokuta to sell one of his cows that he (Tanko) stole.

Tanko admitted that he was in the car in which the guns were found but said he and Bamako did not know that they were sitting on guns, as the four dead suspects just came to

invite them for an outing when they were at Randa. "If I had known that they wanted to rob, I would not have joined them," he said with regret, while he appealed for mercy.

A police source told **Crime Reports** that the gang allegedly robbed at the same market about two years ago and had also operated at Olodo/Imeko axis of the state.

Ex-convict goes shop breaking again

A notorious shop breaker, Segun Oladosu (21), who was once convicted for committing the same offence, has been arrested again by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), Osun State Police Command.

Oladosu did not only go back to his former trade, he targeted the same shop he once broke into and stole the same copper wires that sent him to court and earned him one year's imprisonment.

At his arrest this time around, the suspect said "I don't know what is wrong with me."

Recovered from him were two handsets, two iron bars, one short iron rod, one axe, copper wires and provisions.

Information gathered by **Crime Reports** revealed that the suspect recently broke into the shop of one Oyewale Wahab of Ilesha Garage area, Osogbo, situated at Station Road, Osogbo, from which he carted away copper wires.

Speaking with **Crime Reports**, Oladosu confirmed the allegation against him. He said: "I am from Osogbo. I went to rob a shop known as **Idowu Barber**. It is a shop owned by an electrician. I went to the shop at about 1a.m., broke it and took copper wires. I sold them to some Hausa men for N1,500.

"I went to prison when I committed the same offence in 2011. I went to the same shop to steal cop-

per wires which I sold for N5,000. I was sentenced to one year imprisonment. I completed the sentence in August 2012 and was set free. I went to my brother in Lagos and was working with him as a furniture maker.

"I came back to Osogbo in December 2014 for end-of-the-year celebration. I stayed back and didn't know what pushed me to go back to the shop to break it and steal again. I used an iron bar to break the shop. I don't know what is wrong with me."

The Commissioner of Police in Osun State, Abubakar Marafa, confirmed the story, saying that the suspect would be charged to court at the completion of investigations.



The suspect, Segun Oladosu