

Tricycle operator set ablaze for alleged armed robbery in Anambra

Michael Ovat | Awka

ONE out of a four-man tricycle armed robbery gang that had been terrorising residents and passengers on the Onitsha Army Barracks/Upper Iweka/Borromew roundabout axis, on the Asaba/Onitsha/Enugu expressway in Anambra State was set ablaze by a mob during an attempt to rob at gunpoint.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the incident occurred on Sunday evening.

An eyewitness, who simply identified herself as Rose, said: "I saw it all how it happened because I was at this Green grain market (near Army Barracks) when the robbers stopped their Keke to rob some people who were waiting to board vehicles.

"They were about four but the one who was driving the Keke was the one who was apprehended and set ablaze by angry youths who went after the robbers, but the three of them escaped, leaving behind their driver.

"The Keke driver could not

run because he was a fat and elderly man and they set him ablaze with fuel and used tyres, even though he was shouting that he was not an armed robber."

After the mob had apprehended the suspected robber, some tricycle operators stormed the scene and pleaded with the mob not to set him ablaze, saying, "we know him, he is not an armed robber. We believe he was forced at gun-point by the three armed robbers who escaped when they flagged him down pretending to be passengers."

A tricycle operator said: "It was under duress that they [armed robbers] held him, but as the two men came out from the Keke to rob, they were pursued by passers-by who saw what was happening and the three robbers ran away, abandoning the tricycle driver."

When contacted, the state police spokesperson, Ikenga Tochukwu, said he was not aware of the incident, adding that the information had not reached him.