

# Policeman killed in clash with suspected criminals in Ibadan

① **Seven suspects arrested, 12 motorcycles impounded — Police CP orders probe into arrest of journalist**

By Rukiyat Ogunwade

**T**HERE was pandemonium on Tuesday after a policeman died while many others were injured when policemen attached to the Moniya divisional police headquarters in Ibadan clashed with hoodlums at the Moniya motor park.

It was gathered that the incident occurred after police operatives mounted a road block in the area during a stop-and-search duty on the Ijaye-Isevin road.

According to the report doing the rounds, it was said that the police had flagged down a Sports Utility Vehicle. The driver reportedly tried to escape. The police shot at the car, and the bullet ricocheted off the tyre rim and hit the officer killing him

instantly.

According to another eyewitness, however, police operatives had chased a suspected Yahoo Boy (internet fraudster) to the Moniya park, where he was held up in traffic, "and while trying to escape, a policeman shot at the vehicle, but the bullet misfired and hit the policeman, causing him serious injury."

"The injured police officer has been rushed to an undisclosed hospital for treatment," the source said.

Another version from another eyewitness also claimed that while the policemen were chasing suspected Yahoo Boys into the garage, a stone was hurled at them (policemen) and one of them got injured and was rushed to the hospital, while the suspects escaped from

the scene with their car.

Following the incident, economic activities in the area were immediately paralysed as traders and butchers quickly shut down their business premises for fear of being arrested.

A resident of the area who identified himself as Nurudeen Aponmode said the deceased officer's colleagues, while returning to their office, fired several gunshots and tear gas canisters into the air to scare onlookers.

Men of Operation Burst and policemen from the state police command headquarters at Eleyele were later deployed in the area to prevent breakdown of law and order.

Meanwhile, while giving an official version of what happened, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Adewale Osifeso, in a statement, confirmed the death of the policeman.

Osifeso said the deceased was attacked by hoodlums during lawful discharge of his duty on the road.

He said: "Today [Tuesday] at about 10:15a.m, operatives attached to Moniya Area Command under the Oyo State police command, while on lawful intelligence-led stop-and-search operation around a major black spot, were attacked in the line of duty."

"Preliminary investigation reveals that the patrol team, while acting on credible in-

telligence through visible policing duties, extended their presence around major black spots, highways and major roads under Akinyele Local Government Area axis in a bid to deter criminal elements from settling and establishing dominance within the location.

"In furtherance of the above, the team of operatives on patrol led by one Inspector Stanley Ikhide flagged down an ash-colored Lexus 350 Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) with a worn off number plate, further arousing suspicion from the officers.

"In the process, the driver of the SUV initially slowed down in compliance with the directive before eventually

picking up speed and dashing off to evade the officers on duty.

"This action led to a chase by the officers in a bid to establish further clarity of facts.

"A few meters away from the initial stoppage point, the Lexus SUV veered off the road to a nearby garage, driving directly into the waiting hands of hoodlums who were also collaborators in the criminal process, thereby not only obstructing the officers from discharging their duties, but as well aiding the escape of the SUV and its occupants.

"As a result, the hoodlums attacked the officers unprovoked and attempted forcefully dragging a rifle from one of the officers, which led to a shot being discharged from the barrel during the process of the struggle.

"Sadly, the gallant officer paid the supreme price, suffering a heavy blow to his skull inflicted by one of the hoodlums while preventing them from dispossessing him of his firearm."

Osifeso said that the body of the deceased had already been deposited at the morgue for post-mortem, adding that seven persons had been arrested and 12 motorcycles impounded in connection with the incident.

Meanwhile, the state Commissioner of Police, Adebawale Williams, has ordered an investigation into circumstances that led to the arrest of a journalist, who is the state correspondent of *Silverbird Television*, John Alabi.

Alabi was allegedly arrested by police operatives in the heat of the incident.

## ② Suspected motorcycle thief burnt to death in Abuja

Lawrence Bajah | Abuja

A suspected motorcycle thief was in the early hours of Sunday burnt to death by commercial motorcyclists at Dei-Del area of Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The incident occurred around Bakusa bridge in the community.

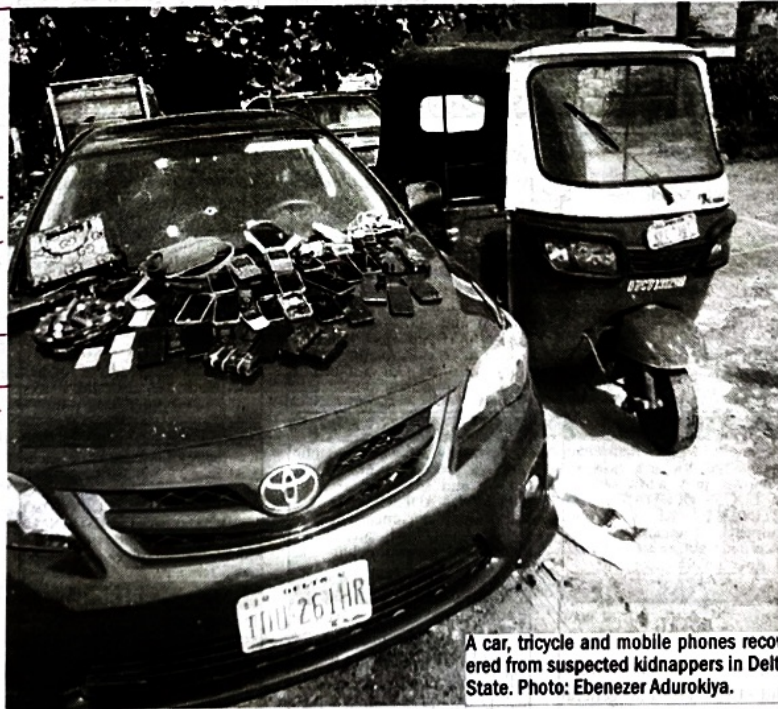
It was gathered that the remains of the suspect were later thrown on a refuse dump and set ablaze again.

A witness, Ibrahim Aliyu, said the deceased had boarded a motorcycle from Karmo town and had ordered the operator to stop on getting to the bridge.

Aliyu said: "He pretended as if he wanted to vomit, only to stab the okada rider in his neck. Unluckily for him, he was traced by other motorcyclists while attempting to escape with the motorcycle. "He was then killed and set ablaze."

The victim was said to have been taken to a hospital for treatment.

As of the time of filing in this report, efforts to contact the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Public Relations Officer, Josephine Adeh, failed as she did not answer calls made to her mobile phone or reply text message sent to her.



A car, tricycle and mobile phones recovered from suspected kidnappers in Delta State. Photo: Ebenezer Adurokiya.

## ③ Suspected herdsmen kill Labour Party chairman in Benue

Johnson Babajide | Makurdi

Ati, who said the incident occurred at the weekend.

## ④ Tricycle operator killed as cultists clash in Kwara

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