

Robbers in military, police uniforms lay siege to Ajah

Olalekan Adetayo

ABOUT six robbery suspects in military and police uniforms on Sunday laid siege to Chevron Junction, Ajah in Lagos, and dispossessed members of the public of their valuables.

Our correspondent learnt that the suspects, who arrived the area at about 1.30am, engaged anti-robbery policemen, led by the Ajah divisional police officer, in a fierce gun battle.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Lagos State Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, a deputy superintendent of police, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on the phone.

Ojajuni said a distress call received at Ajah police station indicated that the suspects, armed with weapons, were harassing passers-by.

He said the policemen drafted to the scene arrested four of the suspects, while two others escaped with their weapons.

The police spokesman said some of those arrested were in military and police uniforms without name tags and force number.

He said their statements showed that the two fleeing suspects, whom the police had already declared wanted, were the ringleaders.

He added that two vehicles they had earlier snatched at gunpoint were recovered from the suspects.

The vehicles include a Mercedes Benz jeep marked FR 403 AAA and a Honda Accord car marked JA 799 AAA.

Ojajuni said the State

Criminal Investigation Department, Pantti Street, Yaba, was investigating the case.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports had it that three policemen, an inspector and two constables, were allegedly killed by armed robbery

suspects in Okokomaiko, a suburb of Lagos, on Saturday.

But the police spokesman, as at press time, said he had not been briefed of the incident and promised to find out from the nearest police division.

PHCN worker electrocuted

**Olamilekan Lartey,
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THERE was confusion at Ogebeogonogoro market in Asaba, the Delta State capital, on Saturday, when a member of staff of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria was electrocuted.

The incident happened while the PHCN technician was carrying out repairs on a high-tension line close to the market.

Many people, including his colleagues, watched helplessly as the technician was in the throes of death.

Our correspondent gathered that it was the courage of a Good Samaritan that saved the technician from being killed.

As the news spread, many traders rushed to the scene to see what had happened.

The rush nearly led to a stampede in the market.

The victim (name withheld) was immediately rushed to the Federal Medical Centre, Asaba, where he was placed on admission.

Public Affairs Manager of the PHCN, Asaba Business District, Mrs. Esther Okolie, told our correspondent that the victim

was responding to treatment at the hospital.

Okolie said the victim was on an official assignment when the incident occurred.

Hospital sources told our correspondent that the patient had suffered acute dehydration as a result of burns from the electric shock, and that it would take some time for him to recover.

But the man later died by 9pm on Saturday.

Public power supply situation had become terrible in the area in the past one week.

But the situation in the area is better when compared to Ibusa, some kilometres away from the state capital, that is in perpetual darkness.

Youths from the community had in June embarked on a peaceful demonstration to protest the poor power supply in the town.

Small businesses owners such as welders, hairdressers, tailors and shopkeepers are the worst hit in the town where a large percentage of civil servants working in Asaba reside.