

Bandits kill two in Lagos

TWO persons, including a 12-year old student, were killed in an early morning robbery attack in Shogunle, near Ikeja on Saturday.

Eye witnesses said the robbery gang, numbering about 30 and armed with sophisticated weapons, moved from house to house in the neighbourhood, terrorising and dispossessing people of their valuables.

"The robbers came in six commercial buses; one jeep and some motorcycles.

"Some fired sporadically, while others broke into people's homes and carted off valuables," one of the witnesses said.

At No. 3, Ibidun Street, Shogunle, home of the late 12-year-old student whose name was given as Sarah, sympathisers milled around her parents, who could not hold back tears.

According to one of the witnesses, people in the compound scampered to

safety when the robbers invaded the house, but were shocked to see the remains of Sarah in a pool of her blood when they returned.

The witness explained that Sarah was a JSS-1 student at Bolade Grammar School, Oshodi, adding that the corpse had been taken away for burial by members of her family.

At 19, Tuwalade Street, where the second person was killed, the body of the man was still in a pool of his blood in his room early

in the morning.

Mr Joseph Agochukwu, father of the deceased, said that the robbers invaded his house at about 1.25 a.m., kicked the door open, switched on the lights and demanded for money.

"I told them I had no money and while my son, Harrison, was trying to open the door they shot him in the abdomen and he fell.

"They went out and came back, and one of them said, 'that is the boy,' and they shot my son a second time and left," he said.

Agochukwu, who had just returned from the burial of his wife, said Harrison, aged 25, was the first son of his family of six children and worked as a driver with a private company.

One of the wounded victims, who spoke to our correspondent on condition of anonymity, said the robbers came to his room and started asking of the policeman living in the compound.

"I told them the policeman had gone on night duty, and one of them said I was the policeman and asked that I be brought out

and shot.

They dragged me out and demanded for my gun, but I insisted I was not a policeman; they took a knife from my table and stabbed me on the head and back," he said.

Some of the residents of the area said that the robbers operated for about four hours, adding that the police came only after they had left.

When contacted, the Lagos State Police Public Relation Officer, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, said he was yet to be briefed about the incident.

Corruption: Steal public funds, go to jail, Ribadu tells new public officers

**MUSIKILU MOJEED
and VICTOR SAM**

THE Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Malam Nuhu Ribadu on Saturday read the Riot Act to newly-elected political office holders, warning them to avoid stealing public funds

in their own interest.

He said that the EFCC would keep a tap on each of them, stressing that anybody found to have compromised in the discharge of his or her duties risked being jailed.

Ribadu said this in Abuja, while delivering a

speech at the policy retreat for newly-elected public office holders on the platform Peoples Democratic Party from the 36 states of the federation.

He said the commission would be hard on corrupt public officials more than it had ever been.

He said, "From now on, especially from this 2007 and forward, every penny of the local government areas, or wherever money goes, government will be able to know and understand why and where the money is going and who is taking what.

"I can also assure you