

# Robbers kill four-year-old girl, two others

**Kunle Adeyemi**

**A**RMED robbers, in the early hours of Thursday, invaded Giwa Oke-Aro Street, Iju, on the outskirts of Lagos and killed three persons, including a four-year-old girl.

The robbers, numbering over 50, were said to have gone to the street in four buses, three cars and one jeep.

Our correspondent learnt that tears rolled freely later in the day when a 16-year-old girl killed during the raid was buried.

The robbers, who perforated the walls of many buildings on the street with bullets, allegedly raided nearly all the houses on the fairly long street.

One of the victims, who preferred anonymity, told our correspondent in shock that her family lost a huge amount

of money and valuables to the bandits.

She said, "I came back home yesterday (Wednesday) at 9pm. When the *okada* man dropped me, I saw some men drinking and having fun very close to our house.

"I did not take them serious. I just walked in and soon went to bed because I was very tired.

"Suddenly we were just woken up by five armed men who demanded for money. They kept on asking where we kept the money and threatening to kill my husband.

"We immediately gave them the money my husband just collected from somebody. Not quite a minute after they left, another group entered our flat and demanded for their share of the money.

"It was after the incident

that we realised that the robbers entered our flat through the window. They broke doors in other flats."

It was learnt that at one of the houses, the robbers who divided themselves into groups, killed the four-year-old girl of one of their victims.

The father himself was reportedly shot while his pregnant wife wept profusely as she appealed to the robbers to stop their havoc in her home.

After the robbers left the woman's apartment, she was said to have called her mother-in-law and informed her of the condition of her husband, who was almost bleeding to death.

The mother-in-law, it was gathered, sent a driver to the house to assist in taking the man to a hospital, but the robbers intercepted the driver when he entered the street.

They allegedly killed him, dumped his corpse in the booth of one of their vehicles and drove away with it.

The 16-year-old girl that was killed was said to be a granddaughter of the community head (baale) in the area.

In the morning of the day of robbery, residents reportedly found and picked expended shells all round the neighbourhood.

While the robbery lasted, it was alleged that no security personnel came to the rescue of the residents, some of who claimed they alerted the police when the robbery started.

When contacted on the telephone on Thursday, the spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, said he was not aware of the incident.

He said the divisional police officer in charge of the area was on annual leave.

## Court quashes FG's suit against Atiku's aide

**Kayode Ketefe**

**A** High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, presided over by Justice Lawal-Gunmi, on Thursday quashed the charge preferred by the Federal Government against the Media Consultant to former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, Mr. Garba Shehu.

The government had charged Shehu with the violation of the Official Secrets Act, Chapter 335, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria.

He was charged with a three-count offence of obtaining "intelligence summary" on the suspected involvement of the late *The News Magazine's* journalist, Mr. Bagauda Kalto, in the bombing of Durbar Hotel in Kaduna in 1996.

He was alleged to have committed the offence between January 2001 and September 2006.

In the ruling on the preliminary objection to the charge filed by Shehu's lawyer, Mr. Niyi Alantola (SAN), Justice Gunmi agreed with Alantola that the charge did not disclose the commission of the offence Shehu was charged with.

He described the charge as being "bereft of material and particulars" needed to support such a charge.

The judge said, "The charge did not disclose *prima facie* case against the accused person to require him to stand trial before this court. The charge constituted an abuse of court process."

Shehu's trouble began when his house was searched after an initial arrest in connection with another matter in 2006.

The detectives who searched the house alleged that they found a report on the killing of Kalto who died in a bomb blast in 1996 in Shehu's home.