

# Police kill four robbery suspects in Lagos

**Kunle Adeyemi**

**F**OUR hours before Christmas, the police on Monday in Lagos encountered and shot dead four suspected armed robbers in two separate incidents in the metropolis.

In the two incidents, the robbers were attempting to snatch vehicles from victims when police patrol teams came to the scenes.

The first robbery attack happened at about 8.40pm at Airways roundabout near Flour Mills, Apapa, while the second occurred at 8pm near Five Star Bus Stop on the Oshodi-Apapa Expressway.

Our correspondent learnt that two men operating on a motorcycle with registration number QK 301 FST, crossed the first victim's Toyota Corolla car with their motorcycle at the Airways roundabout.

They were on the verge of dispossessing the man of his car when a police patrol vehicle emerged and its

occupants were attracted to the scene.

It was gathered that there was an immediate exchange of gunfire between the policemen and the suspected armed robbers.

During the shootout, the two suspects were killed and the life of the victim of the robbery was saved.

One locally-made double-barrelled gun, two live cartridges and one motorcycle were recovered from the dead robbers.

The corpses were

immediately removed by the police and deposited at a public mortuary in the city.

In the second attack, the victim was not so lucky as the robbers had shot him before the arrival of the police.

It was learnt that a five-man gang was attempting to dispossess another man of his Mercedes Benz car with registration number FL 241 EKY at Five Star Bus Stop.

The robbers, who reportedly chased the

victim on motorcycles, fired gunshots at him when it occurred to them that the victim was almost escaping.

As they were struggling with the victim, a team of policemen attached to Mushin Police Station, it was gathered, rushed to the scene.

In a gun battle that ensued, two of the suspects were shot dead while other members of the gang fled.

The policemen, our correspondent learnt, assisted the victim and

rushed him to the Ikeja General Hospital.

Although the victim was said to be in a bad shape, it was learnt on Tuesday evening that he was responding to treatment.

Spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Frank Mba, a deputy superintendent of police, confirmed the killings to our correspondent on Tuesday.

Mba said policemen recovered two locally-made pistols, six live cartridges

and two expended shells from the dead suspects.

According to the PPRO, one unregistered motorcycle was also recovered from the bandits.

The Oshodi-Apapa Expressway has always been a notorious route where armed robbers operate mostly between 6 and 10pm.

Many innocent Lagosians, including policemen, had lost their lives to robbers on the road, especially between Toyota and Cele Bus Stops.

## Court grants N9.6m fraud suspects bail

**Tunde Odesola,  
Osogbo**

**A**N Osogbo Magistrate's Court has granted bail to two suspects, Yekini Ayinde and Aliu Popoola, who were arraigned before the court for allegedly defrauding one Alhaji Mudasiru Folorunso of the N9.6m.

The charge sheet obtained by our correspondent from the court

on Monday, in Osogbo, stated that the two suspects allegedly committed the offence between April 4, 2006 and September 5, 2007 in Osogbo.

During the previous hearing of the case, the magistrate of the court, Mrs. Ayo Ajeigbe, said that her court lacked the jurisdiction to hear the case because it bordered on Advance Fee Fraud—an aspect of law

which is not within the purview of magistrate's courts.

But the counsel to the suspects, Messrs Remi Ayoade and Kazeem Badmus, said the court had the jurisdiction to grant bail to the accused, a position which the magistrate disagreed with.

Ajeigbe subsequently adjourned ruling on whether or not her court could grant

bail to the suspects to December 23, 2007.

At the resumed hearing on Monday, Ajeigbe, who cited several authorities, finally posited that she had the jurisdiction to grant bail in the case on the grounds that the liberty of the two suspects was sacrosanct.

She, thus, granted the suspects, who had entered a 'not guilty' plea, bail in the sum of N1m and two sureties

each.

She said the two sureties must be house owners within the court's jurisdiction.

The police prosecutor, Sergeant Sunday Fatolu, did not oppose the bail application of the suspects, who were facing a two-count charge of conspiracy and stealing.

Ajeigbe adjourned the case till February 7, 2008 for mention.