

# 20 on danger list as robbers raid supermarket

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ONE person was feared killed while 20 others are currently on danger list at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital after surviving a robbery incident at the Cash and Carry Super Market at Kodesoh Street in Ikeja area of Lagos on Saturday.

They were among many people hit by stray bullets from sporadic shooting by the bandits.

## year-old

to impound any motorist in unauthorized use of Police siren.

According to the police commissioner, the command has dispatched letters to those in the habit of such act.

He said the act did not only contravene the recent directive of the inspector-General of police but also constituted a nuisance to the general public.

"This is constituting nuisance and causing dislocations to the status quo. If not curtailed, hundreds of Nigerians will take the law into their hands and use siren indiscriminately."

Doctors confirmed that 80 per cent of the victims were in a "critical condition."

Some of the victims were transferred to other nearby hospitals.

The Divisional Police Officer, Area F, Mr Edgal Emohimi, who confirmed the incident, said it was a case of armed robbers shooting sporadically to escape.

One person was feared killed as the robbers threw the entire area, including the ever-busy Oba Akran Road into pandemonium as the 12-man gang zoned off with their loot.

The manager of Cash and Carry, who would not disclose his name, told our correspondent that he had not recovered enough from the shock to speak.

But a customer, who was inside the shop when the robbers arrived, narrated that four of the bandits who wielding rifles suddenly entered the supermarket about 4pm and ordered everybody to lie down and bring out their money.

"There was initial confusion but when the robbers identified themselves and people saw the guns, everybody cooperated," the witness

said.

According to him, the robbers whom he said were between 18 and 25 years of age, threatened everybody and searched them for money.

Besides, they took an unspecified sum from Cash and Carry as well as some goods, especially electronics, before escaping after operating for about 30 minutes.

Another witness opposite the supermarket on the other side of the road said six of the robbers kept vigil on the road, while their colleagues operated inside the supermarket.

"They were passing bullets to themselves and shooting into the air to scare people and, within minutes, the ever-busy road was clear from any form of traffic build-up," he said.

According to him, when the robbers inside the supermarket finished operating, they joined their partners outside, dispossessed a customer at the supermarket of a BMW car, put their loot in the booth and began driving away through the overhead bridge.

Our correspondent gathered that some youths from the nearby Computer village soon summoned

courage and started throwing bottles and other objects at the robbers.

It was then that hell broke loose as the robbers began to shoot indiscriminately at their attackers and any other person in sight.

In the process, they killed one person and wounded 20 others.

The General Manager of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, Dr. Oke Osanyintolu, who confirmed the incident, told our correspondent at the premises of the Ikeja General Hospital that one person died and 20 others were wounded.

He said one of the victims brought to the hospital by sympathisers was critically ill and that doctors were battling to save his life.

"Six others who had significant injuries are being attended to here, while 10 have been transferred to the Orile Agege General Hospital. Five who have minor injuries have been discharged," he said.

The Divisional Police Officer, Area F, Mr Edgar Emohimi, confirmed the incident as a case of armed robbers who were shooting sporadically to escape, adding that the police would investigate the matter.