

Robbers kill riot policeman, three others in Ogere

Ademola Oni, Abeokuta

ARMED robbers struck again at the old Toll Gate, Ogere in Ogun State on Thursday throwing the truck and traders' park into utter confusion for hours.

The incident, which took place along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, was reported to have claimed the life of a riot policeman, whose wife was said to be pregnant, and three other passersby.

A resident of the town, who spoke to our correspondent on the telephone on Thursday on condition of anonymity, said it was not clear if the occupants of the toll gate were the target of the rampaging robbers, who operated unchallenged for about one hour on the spot.

The robbers, our source said, arrived the area in a bus and two cars, brandishing sophisticated guns and dispossessing other motorists, who were trapped in the ensuing pandemonium, of their valuables.

Expectedly, the operation caused terrible traffic bottlenecks on both sides of the expressway far away from the toll gate, as motorists were scared to advance towards the area even after the bandits had vanished from the area.

The perennial chaotic traffic snarl at the toll gate, occasioned by the indiscriminate parking of fuel tankers on the roadside, was reported to have disappeared momentarily as some drivers, who heard the sporadic gun shots abandoned their

vehicles and fled into nearby bushes.

The resident said the riot policeman was shot severally by the robbers, who thought that he had come to obstruct their operation while three other victims, were allegedly hit by stray bullet.

The robbers after dispossessing the traders and truck owners of their possessions, including unspecified amount of money, fled towards the Ibadan end or the road.

The State Command of the Police Force, however, claimed it not aware of the incident when our correspondent attempted to speak with the state Head of the Criminal Investigation Department, Mr. Felix Ogundeji.