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Oyo community in turmoil as robbers kill school teacher

By Sesan Olufowobi Published: Saturday, 20 Dec 2008

The sleepy town of Oko, a settlement in Surulere Local Government of Oyo State, has been thrown into turmoil after the killing of a schoolteacher, simply known as Mr. Ogunwoye, by armed robbers.

According to a reader, Wahab Gbadamosi, who sent in the story by email on Thursday, Ogunwoye was killed by the robbers on Wednesday after they had attacked the First Bank Plc branch in the town. The reader, who noted that the 30-minute raid was the first since the branch was opened in 1979, narrated that the bandits shot the schoolteacher when they saw him making a telephone call.

According to him, the robbers were on their way out of the bank when they saw Ogunwoye chatting on the phone. Gbadamosi said Ogunwoye, who taught at Methodist Primary School, Ijado, near Oko, was speaking with a friend on the telephone about an issue unrelated to the robbery.

The reader said the robbers came from Osogbo road in two 18-seater buses and a jeep and shot sporadically into the air to scare. Residents picked about 500 spent bullet pellets left and handed them over to policemen.

He said that while some of the bandits made for Ogbomoso road through the Iresa-Adu road in Oko, the others blocked Ejigbo road. He said that buildings in Aabun's compound, opposite the bank and others along Arolu road, near the community's police station, were riddled with bullet holes.

The arrival of the divisional police officer for the local government, whose name was not provided, after the robbers had left, provoked a shouting march between him and residents of the community, who converged on the bank.

The schoolteacher's corpse was later deposited at the mortuary of the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso. When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer for the state, Miss Olabisi Okuwobi, told our correspondent on the telephone that the police engaged the robbers in a shoot-out before the bandits fled with gunshot wounds.

She said one Jeremiah, who was hit by stray bullets from the robbers, was responding to treatment and appealed to members of the public to alert the police about anyone with bullet wounds.

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