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One dies, others flee as bandits engage police in shootout

By Ademola Olonilua and Aishat Jimoh

Saturday, 5 Mar 2011

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One dies, others flee as bandits engage police in shootout

A member of a robbery gang in Sagamu, Ogun State, was killed while others fled with bullet wounds as bandits, who had raided the shop and home of a trader, engaged the police in gun duel late last month.

The deceased, Saheed Enitan, who sustained serious injuries during the hoodlums' encounter with the police, died a few days after the incident, but not until he had confessed that the bandits came from Ikorodu, Lagos State, to carry out robbery operations in Sagamu.

Enitan and his suspected criminal gang had stormed the shop of a female trader in Falawo Market, Sagamu, penultimate

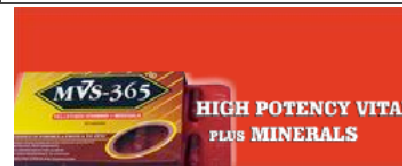
Thursday and robbed her of all her belongings and cash.

Not done yet, according to a source who spoke with CRIME DIGEST, the bandits bundled the woman, who just arrived from a business trip to Lagos, into their vehicle and drove her to her house, where they also robbed her of her jewellery, cash and other valuables.

Having stretched their luck unnecessarily further, some traders, who were observant, informed the police of the incident in the market and how the bandits had bundled the embattled trader, called simply Imoniruwa, into a car and took her to her house for another phase of the robbery.

The bandits, however, became unlucky when an anti-robbery team of the Sagamu Police Station, led by Mr. Shehu Alao, a Superintendent of Police, confronted them while they were on their way back to the market after robbing the household of Imoniruwa.

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A police source, who spoke with CRIME DIGEST on the condition of anonymity, said the robbers opened fire on sighting the police, thereby igniting an exchange of gunfire that led to the arrest of Enitan.

Other members of the gang were said to have fled with bullet wounds after the car of the hoodlums ran into a container-carrying truck in a desperate attempt by the bandits to escape the fire power of the police.

"We got a report that a woman was being robbed in her shop at Falawo Market. After they looted Imoniruwa's shop, they ordered her to enter their car and take them to her house," the source said.

Unknown to the criminals, Alao, who is the Divisional Police Officer of the Sagamu Police Division, mobilised his men immediately the report of the robbery was received. The suave patrol of the team led them to the path of the hitherto comfortable robbers.

The source said, "On their way from Imoniruwa's house, they spotted the police patrol vehicle and panicked. Then they tried to run away in their get-away car. But the police chased them. In the confusion, they collided with a stationary truck bearing a container. They jumped out of the vehicle and opened fire on the police. The police returned fire.

"When the robbers began to sustain bullet wounds and realised that they had no chance against the police, they fled into the bush. The police chased them and caught up with Enitan, who had lost a lot of blood."

The robbed trader told CRIME DIGEST that it was the second time she had been robbed in her life.

She described the robbers as "very wicked," adding that they beat her mercilessly during the robbery operation.

She said, "I was unloading the goods I had just bought from Lagos when a Toyota Camry car parked beside my shop. Some men came out with guns and told me they had come and I should take them to where I kept my money.

"Then they looted my shop. When they were through, they asked me to get inside their car and take them to my house so that they could steal some more.

"In their car they beat me; they told me I was too relaxed in their car and that I was enjoying their air conditioner. They said I was going to pay millions of naira for enjoying their car that much. They beat me till we got to my house."

Imoniruwa added, "When they had stolen my jewellery and other valuables in my house, they told me to go outside my compound so that they could shoot me in the leg. I pleaded with them and they told me to go back inside, locked me in my house and left."

CRIME DIGEST gathered that the car the robbers used to carry out their operation was stolen from one Mr. Ilesanmi Olabode, a resident of Sagamu, four days before the bandits met their Waterloo.

Olabode confessed that he was frightened when the criminals attacked his residence, thinking that he had lost his daughter.

He said, "My wife called me to come and pick her, the kids and her sales boy from the shop. As we drove in, some men came with us and told us to put up our hands and ordered us to lie down on the floor.

"They asked for money and my wife told them it was in the booth of the car. They asked me to reverse and I told them I could not because my daughter was close to the tyre of the car. One of them hit me with the gun, took the key and started the engine.

"My wife hurriedly dragged my daughter away and they left with my car, my money, and some of my children's belongings. I ran after them shouting. A Good Samaritan picked me up and took me to the



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police station, where I filed a complaint. The DPO mobilised his men, gave me his telephone set to call my people. I slept in a friend's place with my family out of fear."

CRIME DIGEST learnt that before Enitan died, he confessed to the crime. He had stated that the bandits were from Ikorodu, Lagos State.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Musa Daura, confirmed the incident, saying the command was still on the trail of the fleeing robbers.



Comments :

- These policemen should be recognised and congratulated for their courage, diligence and proactiveness. Well done!

Posted by: PIUS , on Saturday, March 05, 2011

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