

# One feared killed, two injured as policeman fires at commercial bus

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One person was feared killed while two others were seriously injured on Wednesday when a trigger-happy policeman opened fire on a commercial bus near the Ogun State Property Investment Corporation Bus Stop, Isheri, on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

PUNCH METRO gathered that around 9am, two of the policemen attached to Gateway City Development Centre, left their duty post to mount an illegal checkpoint near the bus stop.

The policemen were said to have flagged down a commercial bus and demanded money from the driver.

The driver, it was learnt, turned down the request and the action infuriated one of the policemen, who fired at the bus. Three of the passengers were hit by the bullet released by the trigger-happy policeman.

One of the affected persons, a woman, whose identity was unknown, was said to have been hit by the bullet on the left side of her face, while the other passenger, a man, sustained a bullet wound on his back.

The third victim identified simply as a pastor was feared killed as the bullet hit him in the head. He was carried away to an unknown destination by sympathisers.

An accident rescue consultant, who was at the scene, Dr. Kehinde Oshibote, said, "Around 10 o'clock, I received a phone call alerting me about an accident that happened around the



• Daura

Gateway City Development Corporation. The caller said somebody had been shot. I ran to the scene and saw the person lying in a pool of blood.

"On enquiry, I was told that the riot policemen from the Gateway Response Squad, who were posted to the GCDC, left their duty post and went across the expressway extorting money from commercial bus drivers and *okada* riders who were plying the road.

"They tried to stop one of the drivers but he refused. One of the policemen opened fire on the bus and three people were injured.

The bullet hit one of the victims in the eye, another one was hit in the back, while the third person was hit in the head."

Oshibote said the victim, who sustained head injury, was initially brought to the gate of the GCDC by some angry commercial motorcyclists who tried to force their way into the premises.

The victims were later taken to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja, for treatment by the Lagos State Accident and Emergency Rescue team.

The Commissioner of Police, Ogun State Command, Mr. Musa Daura, who was at the scene around 11:30am, declined to make comment on the incident.

The CP, who said he was there primarily to ensure security in the area, however, told our correspondents to get in touch with the command's spokesman for comment.

The Public Relations Officer of the GCDC, who declined to give her name, also refused to comment on the incident. "You cannot cajole or force me to talk. I can talk only with the permission of my boss," she said.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Muiyiwa Adejobi, said he had not been briefed about the incident.

However, it was gathered that the policemen involved in the incident were already in detention.