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Friday, 19 August 2011
Last Update: 02:53:46 PM GMT+0100
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Robbery: How police arrested dying undergraduate on hospital bed

By Femi Makinde, Ado-Ekiti

Saturday, 30 Jul 2011

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Inspector-General of **Police**, Mr. Hafiz Ringim

When Mr. Olusegun Olufowobi, a **constable** attached to the **Ekiti State Police Command**, returned home at Moferere area of Ado-**Ekiti** on July 20, 2011 after his daily routine, he had no premonition that he was returning to meet his death.

He had put on his generator to beat the usual blackout engineered by the Power Holding Company of Nigeria. That was his undoing because the light powered by the generator attracted a gang of robbers who thought that the occupants of the only well-illuminated building in the neighbourhood must be rich.

The gang was led by one Blessing Ohworisi, 27, who is a male student of the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-**Ekiti**. Other members of the gang are Kolade Olajide, a medical student at the Madona University satellite campus, Elele, Rivers State; and a tyre repairer, Ojo Ogundare, who is from Idolofin, Ado-**Ekiti**.

The medical student, while being paraded by officers of the **police** command in the state, told journalists that the gang was returning from a futile outing when the gang leader spotted a well-lit house in a dark neighbourhood and he just went in, believing that whoever could afford to run a generator should have money and other valuables they could cart away.

Unknown to him, the occupant of the rented apartment is a policeman attached to the Special Anti-Robbery Squad in Ado-**Ekiti**. Ohworisi was said to have knocked and when the **police constable**, who had undressed came out, the gang leader attacked him, but as he could not overpower him, he shot him in the chest. The wounded policeman was said to have rushed inside the house, drew his service pistol and shot Ohworisi.

Olajide, who said that he met the gang leader, explained further that as their leader came out bleeding, a motorcyclist came from nowhere and they put him on it and escaped.

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The policeman was taken to a hospital by the residents of the area, but he died and was buried in his hometown, Ile-Ife, on July 23, 2011.

The medical student explained that the gang beat the **police** check-points they met on the road by deceiving them that Ohworisi was shot by armed robbers. He added that being a medical student, he observed that Ohworisi, who was also known as Master Orchestra, could not be treated properly in the first hospital, where they rushed him to and they took him away from there.

The injured robber was taken to other hospitals in **Ekiti** State, but he was rejected until he was taken to the Federal Medical Centre in Ido-**Ekiti**, from where he was referred to the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

Nemesis caught up with the suspects at Ile-Ife, the hometown of the cop whom they killed during their operation. The **police**, who had been trailing the gang, traced them to Ile-Ife and they were arrested.

Kolade said, "I was in Ondo that day when Blessing called me that we had a business to do in Ado-**Ekiti**. I had to come down. We never thought of going to the officer's house, but it was attractive because of the heavy illumination because the generating set was on.

"As Blessing entered the house, we stayed outside and we just heard the sound of a gunshot and later another sound. After a few minutes, Blessing rushed out of the house with blood oozing from his body and we fled the scene and took him to the hospital."

Another suspect who was arrested with the gang, one Miss Sunkanmi Faleye, the girlfriend of Ohworisi, said that she did not know that her boyfriend, who is a student, was a part-time robber. Faleye, who is a pre-degree student of the Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo, said that Olajide called her on the phone and told her that her boyfriend was shot by a robber and that was why she left Ondo town and travelled to Ile-Ife to take care of her friend.

Faleye, who cried throughout the period of the parade, added that she would never have had anything to do with Ohworisi if she had an inkling that he was a criminal.



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Ohworisi's girlfriend, Olajide and Ogundare, who were manacled, were paraded together. The two other members of the gang did not refute what the lady said.

The **Ekiti** State Commissioner of **Police**, Mr. Olayinka Balogun, told journalists before the suspects were paraded that investigation into the incident was still going on to know why the **constable** was killed. The CP said, "The policeman was murdered in his rented apartment at Moferere area of Ado-**Ekiti**. He engaged the attackers in a gun battle with his service pistol although he later died. But before then, he shot and injured one of the hoodlums, who is now receiving treatment at the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife, in Osun State."

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