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You are here: [Home](#) / [Metro Plus](#) / Pipeline vandals attack Lagos police station, kill three

Pipeline vandals attack Lagos police station, kill three

JANUARY 28, 2015 BY OLALEYE ALUKO ■ 0 COMMENTS



Owutu Police Division

Some suspected pipeline vandals have attacked the Owutu Police Division along Agric Bus stop in the Ikorodu area of Lagos.

The vandals, who were said to have struck on Monday, shot two policemen and a civilian dead during the assault.

Our correspondent learnt that the attackers, who reportedly wielded pump-action rifles, came on three motorcycles and a commercial bus at about 10pm.

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It was gathered that the vandals, after killing the two cops, who were stationed at the police division's gate, also dispossessed them of arms and ammunition.

The vandals, it was also gathered, burnt one of the patrol vehicles in front of the station before their exit.

When *PUNCH Metro* visited the station on Tuesday, it was observed that five Rapid Response Squad vans with riot policemen were guarding the police division.

There was also an amour tank from the Area H Command, Ogudu, at the scene.

A motorcycle rider (*okada*) beside the station, who gave his name simply as Usman, explained that the civilian that was shot dead along with the cops was also an *okada* rider.

He added that two other shop owners beside the station sustained gunshot injuries and were being treated at the Ikorodu General Hospital.

He said, "The vandals came to the station at about 10.30pm. They caught the officers by surprise. At that time, it was us (*okada* riders), and tea vendors who were still on the roads.

"Two policemen were shot dead. The vandals then began to shell the station. In the process, one of us— Mr. Illiyasu Abdullahi — was hit and he died. His motorcycle is still parked over there. He was from Katsina State and was married with four children.

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"Two other tea sellers were hit by the bullets. They are still receiving treatment at the Ikorodu General Hospital."

Our correspondent gathered that Abdullahi's corpse had been deposited at a morgue in the area.

A resident near the station, who declined to give his name, added that he believed the vandals were returning from an operation in the Abule Ishawo and Tapa areas when they stopped to attack the station.

He said, "Three motorcycles brought them here. Three men were seated on each bike. The rifles those vandals brought were superior to that of the police. There was no power supply and everywhere was dark.

"The vandals spoke the Ijaw language. Earlier, at about 4pm, we saw vans of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps driving into the area as if they suspected the vandals were coming, but the NSCDC did not return with any suspect.

"It was in the evening that the attack took place. The NSCDC men had left. The vandals' guns sounded like bombs."

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Kenneth Nwosu, confirmed the attack. He added that the command lost two officers, noting that efforts were being made to apprehend the vandals.

He said, "The vandals got to the Owutu Police Division and opened fire. Our men responded to repel them, and in the process, we lost two of them along with their rifles. The vandals came in a commercial bus and eight motorcycles. They numbered about 30.

"We have not arrested any suspect for now, but intense efforts are being made to get them. I was in Owutu this morning (Tuesday), and the area is calm now. That is the situation."

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