

Suspected robber burnt to death, two arrested

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James and Okonkwo

Olaleye Aluko

A yet-to-be-identified armed robber, who fell off a motorcycle, has been burnt to death by an angry mob in the Abule Ado, Satellite Town area of Lagos State.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the robber, who came with two other gang members on the motorcycle, was initially shot in the leg by the police before he fell off, making him a victim of mob action.

This is just as the Rapid Response Squad arrested two suspected traffic robbers, identified as Oyakhilome Okonkwo and Oche Joseph, who allegedly stole N23,500 from a passenger in the Agbado area.

Our correspondent learnt that in the Abule Ado incident which occurred at about 2pm on Monday, a three-man gang had broken into a store, where they carted away several phones.

It was gathered that while the robbery went on, policemen from the Satellite division came to the area and opened fire on the robbers during which one of them was hit in the leg.

A female motorist, who identified herself only as Okere, tweeted that she arrived at the scene when the robber was being burnt.

She said, “My welcome to Lagos on Monday was to see people burning a thief on the Mile 2 road. It was bad. They could have just taken him to a police station.”

Angry youths were said to have prevented the police from rescuing the robber, after which they battered him till he fainted and subsequently set him on fire.

Our correspondent gathered that the police recovered two unexpended cartridges and the phones taken from the store.

The suspects that were nabbed by the RRS men – 22-year-old Okonkwo and Joseph, 25 – were arrested at the U-Turn area on Tuesday after they had allegedly disguised as bus passengers and stolen N23,500 from a passenger.

It was learnt that when the yet-to-be-identified passenger alighted at the U-Turn junction, he observed that his money was missing and alerted the police on patrol.

The passengers in the bus were said to have been searched during which the duo were found with the money.

Joseph, who confessed to the crime, said he had done several vocations, but none had fetched him money like stealing.

Joseph, a resident of Mosalasi Street in the Ojo area, added that he had worked with Joseph for three months.

He said, “The Agbado area is the most lucrative route for this business. There are too many pickpockets on the Oshodi–Mile 2 route. I decided to choose Agbado because pickpockets are not many there.

“We usually monitored our victims coming out of banks and we would follow them into buses. Today, we were at the bus stop where the victim was, but we could not remove the money at the bus stop.

“So, Oche (Joseph) and I followed him into a bus and we began to pick the money from his pocket. The money was in N500 denomination, so it was difficult to remove the entire money at once. I started removing the money in tranches, but unfortunately for us, the passenger alighted not far from the bank.

“On most occasions, we alight before the victim and we would run away. But the man alighted before us, noticed that his money had been taken and he raised the alarm.”

The Police Public Relations Officer, SP Dolapo Badmos, confirmed the arrest of the suspected traffic robbers.

On Abule Ado, she said, “The hoodlum was shot in the leg by the police on patrol and he fell off the motorcycle while others escaped. The mob descended on him and burnt him to death before the police could rescue him.”

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