

# Command seeks information on Ikorodu abduction, killings

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•Aisha and Faridah Photo: Twitter

## Afeez Hanafi

The whereabouts of a two-year-old girl, Faridah, is still shrouded in mystery three days after some gunmen abducted her and killed her mother at the Asolo bus stop on Ikorodu Road, Lagos.

*PUNCH Metro* learnt that apart from the woman, identified simply as Aisha, two other persons were killed, while several victims were also kidnapped by the bandits.

The development had prompted the state Commissioner of Police, Fatai Owoseni, to seek details of the victims from their relatives to assist in the police rescue mission and the arrest of the suspects.

The assailants were said to have escaped through the waterways in the Majidun area of Ikorodu.

Our correspondent gathered that the gang had invaded the bus stop at about 8pm on Friday, shooting continuously and robbing people held up in the traffic on Ikorodu Road.

Aisha was reportedly trying to flee the scene with her daughter when she was shot, and her daughter abducted.

The assailants were said to have shot into a bush around the bus stop where some commuters ran to for safety.

A resident, who spoke to *PUNCH Metro* on condition of anonymity, said the casualties were many, adding that the incident had created panic in the community.

He said, "I don't know the actual number of persons killed in the incident. But I learnt a kid and two persons, who live in Ikorodu, were also abducted.

"The mother of the child that was abducted did not get help on time. She died from the gunshot injuries she sustained.

"It was after the robbers had left that policemen arrived. There is a military base in Majidun, but nobody came to confront the hoodlums during the operation. I was indoors, glued to my bed while the operation lasted. It was very serious."

An elder of the community, who did not want his name in print, said much had not been done by security agents in preventing dwellers from militant attacks.

"I am aware that people died. This is not the first time such a thing would happen. One happened about three weeks ago. There should be a 24-hour patrol on the road and in communities in Ikorodu. The militants are regrouping again. The creeks, where they hide, need to be constantly patrolled by the Nigerian Navy," he said.

A *Twitter* user, Segun Fajol, lamented Aisha's death, and urged the state and federal governments to ensure that her child was rescued safely.

"My wife's friend was shot dead at Ikorodu traffic robbery on Friday and the daughter was kidnapped. Do something about Ikorodu," he *tweeted*.

The CP, Owoseni, in a press briefing on Monday, said the police would collaborate with other security agencies to intensify policing on waterways and creeks, adding that the command had not received formal reports from relatives of the victims of the Ikorodu incident.

He said, "We gathered that two lives were lost while militants were firing and that some persons were kidnapped. No family member of those involved has shown up. The relatives of the victims should report at the nearest police station. It is when we have information about the victims that we can act more decisively.

"We have identified some of these vulnerable places and we are working with sister agencies to strengthen security on waterways."