

Suspected motorcycle thieves burnt to death in Osun, Oyo

Bola Bamigbola and Wale Oyewale

Three suspected thieves accused of stealing motorcycles were on Friday burnt to death in Ile-Ife, Osun State and Odo Ona area of Ibadan, Oyo State.

2 Eyewitnesses said two suspects were apprehended after they had successfully stolen a motorcycle at Lagere, Ile-Ife.

A resident, who spoke to our correspondent on condition of anonymity, said the incident happened around 3pm.

He said, "The two men were chased and apprehended by a group of okada (motorcycle) riders. They were burnt alive in Lagere."

The Police Public Relations Officer in Osun, Yemisi Opalola, confirmed the incident.

She said, "The two suspected robbers were nabbed in Lagere area by a group of commercial motorcyclists. They were set ablaze before our patrol team arrived at the scene."

3 Also, a man, who is yet to be identified, was on Friday burnt to death at the 110 Roundabout area, Odo Ona, Ibadan, Oyo State, for allegedly stealing a motorcycle.

It was gathered that the suspected thief and one other suspect were chased to the area by some enraged youths. The other suspect, however, escaped from the scene of the incident.

The stolen motorcycle was said to have been retrieved from the suspect before he was set ablaze.

He was reported to have been beaten with clubs, stones and other dangerous objects before being set on fire.

✎ An eyewitness, who spoke to our correspondent on condition of anonymity, said, "We have been at the mercy of thieves in this area for quite some time now though I am not really comfortable with the jungle justice that was carried out."

There was traffic congestion for some time along the 110-Akinyemi-Odo-Ona-Apata Road as a crowd of people scrambled to witness the incident.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Oyo State Command, Olugbenga Fadeyi, while confirming the incident, condemned the jungle justice meted out to the suspect.

Fadeyi said, "Information obtained from the Divisional Police Officer, Oluyole, revealed that two hoodlums robbed an okada (motorcycle) rider of his TVS motorcycle and took to their heels. Luck ran out on them and they were caught by other riders who were on their trail at 110 roundabout area.

"They descended on them before the arrival of the police and unleashed mayhem on them. One ran away, while the other person was set ablaze. This act of jungle justice has been condemned in its totality among okada riders.

"They were supposed to hand the suspect(s) over to the police for investigation and prosecution to allow dignity in our society."

Bye-election: Three

Maiharaji Altine, Gusau

Three persons have been killed and some buildings set on fire in Bakura town in Zamfara State.

Several vehicles were also vandalised in the violence that rocked the area on Friday, a day to the House of Assembly bye-election for the vacant seat of Bakura constituency.

Addressing journalists in Bakura in the Bakura Local Government Area of the state, the Assistant Inspector-General of Police in charge of zone 10, Mohammed Mustapha, said the deceased persons were killed as a result of squabbles between supporters of the two major political parties in the state.