

**A** suspected kidnapper was shot dead during a gun duel between some kidnappers and policemen in Ogun State.

Men of the state police command shot dead the suspect in Mologede area in the Odeda Local Government Area of the state.

The state police spokesperson, DSP, Abimbola Oyeyemi, disclosed this on Saturday.

Oyeyemi said the incident happened on Friday after policemen received a distress call. The PPRO explained that a distress call was received by the Divisional Police Officer, Bode Olude Divisional Headquarters at noon on Friday.

He said, "The police were told that a tipper driver has been kidnapped by some people suspected to be herdsmen. Upon the distress call, the DPO, Bode Olude Division, DSP Durojaye Rotimi, mobilised his men, local hunters, men of the So-Safe-Corps as well as policemen from adjoining police stations and moved to the area. While combing the bush, the kidnappers were sighted in the forest where they engaged the policemen in a gun battle.

"In the process, one of the kidnappers was shot in the leg, while others escaped with varying degrees of gunshot injury, while the victim was rescued unhurt. One single barrel gun was recovered from them, while the suspect gave up the ghost on the way to the hospital."

The PPRO said the Commissioner of Police, Edward Ajogun, who commended his men for their display of gallantry, ordered a massive manhunt for the fleeing members of the gang.

## Three die in Ogun police-kidnappers' shootout, road crash on Lagos-Ibadan expressway

Oyeyemi added that Ajogun also applauded the support given to the police by men of the So-Safe corps, hunters and the Oodua People's Congress and sought for continued cooperation.

Meanwhile, a truck killed two female hawkers and injured three males on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway in a lone crash at the Lotto axis, inbound Lagos, along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

Our correspondent gathered that the driver of the MACK truck

marked SMK 82 XY lost control of the wheels and rammed into the hawkers by the roadside. Eyewitnesses said two female hawkers were knocked dead on the spot, while three male others sustained injuries.

The spokesman for the Traffic Road Compliance and Enforcement Corps, Babatunde Akinbiyi, confirmed the incident on Saturday, adding that the incident occurred around 4pm on Friday.

He said "The vehicle was

inbound Lagos, around lotto axis when it lost control, skidded off the road and rammed into hawkers by the roadside, killing two females on the spot. The ill-fated vehicle has been taken to the Mowe Divisional Police Station, with the driver of the vehicle in their custody."

Akinbiyi said the remains of the victims had been taken to Idera Morgue, Sagamu while the injured ones were taken to Famobis Hospital, Mowe, for treatment.

## Lagos #EndSARS: 99 corpses deposited at mortuary, three from Lekki –Pathologist

OLADIMEJI RAMON

**T**he Lagos State Judicial Panel of Inquiry probing the alleged killing of #EndSARS protesters at the Lekki tollgate on October 20, 2020 has called for the record of all 99 corpses deposited in the mortuary of the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital between October 19 and 24 last year.

The panel chairman, retired Justice Doris Okuwobi, made the order on Saturday after LASUTH Chief Pathologist, Prof John Obafunwa, gave testimony before the panel and presented autopsy reports and pictures of three out of the 99 deposited corpses.

Obafunwa told the panel that of the 99 bodies deposited at the mortuary, he was told that only three came from Lekki, hence, the decision to present three autopsy reports and pictures, showing corpses with varying degrees of injury.

"Those are the three bodies I was told were from Lekki as recorded by the people who brought them in," the pathologist told the panel.

According to him, the other 96 deposited corpses were said to have been recovered from different areas of Lagos.

But one of the counsel representing #EndSARS protesters before the panel, Adeyinka Olumide-Fusika (SAN), disagreed with Obafunwa on the claim that only three corpses came from Lekki.

Olumide-Fusika asked the panel to order LASUTH to bring forward the records and autopsy reports on the entire 99 bodies deposited.

Ruling, the panel chairman ordered LASUTH to produce records on the 96 other corpses in addition to the three presented on Saturday.

The panel adjourned till June 19 for further hearing.

While the Nigerian Army has repeatedly denied shooting at or killing any of the #EndSARS protesters at the Lekki tollgate on the night of October 20, 2020, a number of persons with injuries have appeared before the panel insisting that they were shot at the tollgate and that they also witnessed the death of others.

At one of the previous proceedings, a trauma and orthopaedic surgeon with Reddington Hospital in Lekki, Lagos, Dr Babajide Lawson, had narrated to the panel how the hospital received and treated "a large number" of injured persons, including those with bullet wounds, on the night of October 20, 2020.

Lawson said the Lekki facility of the hospital was "literally overwhelmed" by the crowd wounded persons, who were presented at the hospital at the same time, and that some had to be transferred to the Victoria Island branch of the hospital.