

Police commence probe as Lagos, Benue mobs suspected kidnapper, motorcycle thief

Oluwatosin Omojuyigbe and John Charles

THE Lagos and Benue state police commands said they had commenced investigation into the lynching of a suspected kidnapper and a motorcycle thief by mobs in both states.

It was gathered that some residents of the Orile-Agege area of Lagos, on Tuesday, caught two suspected kidnappers in the area.

It was learnt that the suspects allegedly abducted some schoolchildren and put them in a vehicle and were heading for an unknown destination.

PUNCH Metro was told that the



• Scene of the Lagos incident

cries of some of the schoolchildren attracted the attention of a motorcyclist, who chased after the vehicle and alerted other road users.

One of our correspondents learnt that the suspects were intercepted around the Mulero bus stop by a mob.

It was gathered that one of the suspects was set ablaze, while the police rescued the other from the angry residents.

An eyewitness, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "It was a motorcyclist who started chasing the kidnappers from the Ajegunle tollgate after some of the schoolchildren they kidnapped cried out for help through the windows of the vehicle conveying them.

"It was at Mulero bus stop that residents intercepted their vehicle when the motorcyclist raised the alarm. One of the suspected kidnappers and the vehicle were set ablaze, while the police rescued the other one."

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Olumuyiwa Adejobi, said in a statement that policemen from the Elere Police Division rescued one of the suspects, who suffered machete cuts, and took him to hospital.

Adejobi stated that the state Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, had ordered a discreet investigation into the matter and condemned the act of jungle justice.

He said, "The Lagos State Police Command has commenced investigation into the killing of one man alleged to be a kidnapper and setting ablaze of a Golf car at Mulero bus stop, Agege, on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, around 8.17am.

"Police operatives attached to the Elere Division, upon a distress call that some suspected kidnappers were being mobbed at Mulero bus stop by Omotoye Estate, raced to the scene, where a white Golf car and a male suspect had been set ablaze.

"The police operatives moved in to

rescue the other male suspect, who had been dealt several machete blows by the mob numbering over 2,000. While trying to rescue the other male suspect, the agitated crowd also attacked the policemen. The suspect was subsequently rescued and taken to hospital for treatment.

"The Commissioner of Police, Lagos State, Hakeem Odumosu, condemned the act of jungle justice and called for a discreet investigation into the case as he promised to continually kick against such an inhumane act."

Similarly, a young man, whose identity could not be immediately ascertained, was on Tuesday set ablaze for allegedly trying to steal a motorcycle in Makurdi, Benue State.

The incident, according to an eyewitness, happened at the popular Wurukum Market in Markurdi.

The eyewitness, who simply identified himself as Danladi, said a man had parked his motorcycle at the entrance to the market and went inside.

"While in the market, some people, who were around the area, saw a young man, who just came out from nowhere and inserted his key into the motorcycle and was about taking off with it when people around the place raised the alarm.

"As the people raised the alarm, the young man started running, but luck ran out on him as some youths ran after him, caught up with him and wasted no time in looking for a disused tyre, petrol and a box of matches and set him ablaze."

Another eyewitness, who simply identified himself as Adzegeh, said the young man was the third person

lynch

to be set ablaze at Wurukum in recent times.

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Catherine Anene, condemned the act of setting suspects ablaze.

"Incident confirmed and the act of setting a human being ablaze is condemned by the command. There are legal means of handling such issues," Anene stated.

EFCC arrests 65 st



• Some of the suspects

Olamide Francis

OPERATIVES of the Ibadan, Federal Capital Territory and Enugu zonal offices of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission have arrested 65 suspected Internet fraudsters.

Multiple statements by the anti-graft agency's Head, Media and Publicity, Wilson Uwujaren, said the suspects were arrested in various locations across the three states.

In Oyo State, 50 suspects were arrested at Alaro Sango, Agbaje Ijokoro and Apete Aladura areas of Ibadan following intelligence on their alleged involvement in Internet fraud.

Some items used in perpetrating the crime, one of the statements said, were recovered from the suspects, adding that the suspects included Badmus Abeeb, Ibrahim Ahmed, Adeyemo Babatunde, Abdulrashid Ajagbe, Olajide Peter, Hassan Atanda, Yusuf Saladeen, Bello Bamidele, Adewale Tosin, Kolawole Olawale, Nicholas Ferdinand, Keshiro Olanrewaju,

Drivers protest in Rivers as NSCDC official shoots colleague dead

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

THERE was pandemonium on the NTA Road in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, on Tuesday, following a protest by bus drivers over the killing of one of their colleagues by a security outfit attached to the Rivers State Task Force on Street Trading and Illegal Motor Parks.

It was gathered that the bus driver was shot while being chased by the task force officials for wrong parking in the area.

The drivers, under the aegis of the Association of Urban Drivers, said their colleague was killed by an operative of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps attached to the task force.

It was gathered that the driver had



• Rivers Gov, Nyesom Wike

dropped off a passenger when the task force officials blocked him and an argument ensued during which he was chased before one of the NSCDC official fired a gunshot, which hit the driver on his genitals.

The victim was rushed to hospital and was pronounced dead by a doctor, who said he had lost much blood.

The protesting drivers abandoned their vehicles on the road to protest and described the action of the task force and the security operatives accompanying them as one too many.

The situation caused gridlock on the road and the adjoining streets, leaving motorists and commuters stranded.

When contacted, the spokesman for the state police command, Nnamdi Omoni, confirmed the incident to our correspondent.

He stated, "Yes, I can confirm that there was a little fracas over there between the driver and the task force, where they said a member of the civil defence attached to the team fired and the bullet hit the driver and he was taken to hospital.

"Our men are still there trying to calm the situation and vehicular movement has resumed."