

# UI students live in fear as robbers raid hostels again, kill one

Olufemi Olaniyi, Ibadan

**S**TUDENTS of the University of Ibadan living off-campus, as well as residents of areas adjoining the institution, are in panic after armed robbers shot dead a commercial motorcyclist in the area.

Scores of robbers had invaded the off-campus hostels at Agbowo community in the early hours of Wednesday, carting away phones, laptops and other expensive gadgets from students after shooting two persons.

Some of the students told PUNCH Metro that they were traumatised by the early morning invasion, which forced them to flee the area.

However, the tension in the community heightened on Saturday when the hoodlums struck again.

A student, who identified himself only as Gabriel, explained that a motorcyclist was riding with a passenger when the robbers stopped him at the junction before the UI 2nd Gate, as they attempted to dispossess him of the motorcycle.

Gabriel said, "The Okada rider did not want them to take away the motorcycle and as that was going on, the passenger jumped off and fled the scene. Sensing that the Okada rider's resistance might put them in danger, one of them brought out a gun and shot him point-blank in the head."

"He was still gasping by the



• Scene of the incident

time people got to the scene, but the damage was too much. His brain was spilled on the road



• The PoS operator, Lawal

right there and the police came and took his corpse away."

Another student, who declined to give his name, said he and his colleagues could not sleep through the night, as gunshots rent the air for hours.

He said, "The killing happened around 8.05pm and we all rushed inside. But shortly after that, we heard a siren and gunshots, which we believed should be from security agents."

"But after that, we kept hearing gunshots at intervals until around 12 midnight and we did not know who was shooting. The area is tense now and some of my mates have relocated to other areas. Some of the students who came to resume have gone back to their various homes and some of us are still around because we have nowhere to go."

He appealed to the state government and security agencies to shift attention to the area.

Meanwhile, robbers have shot dead a point-of-sale operator,

## again, kill one

Sahced Lawal, at Elelubo Police Station around 9pm the zone, Bako community, Apata, same day. They, however, alleged along the Ibadan-Abeokuta Expressway.

Lawal, who was shot dead in his residence, was said to have just returned from a mosque where he went to pray around 7pm on Saturday.

A source said the gang knocked on the door and opened fire on their victim immediately he opened the door.

"They demanded money and the deceased's wife did not even know they had shot dead her husband. She gave them the money and they escaped on a motorcycle," he added.

Residents said the incident was reported at the Omi-Adio

Police Station around 9pm the zone, Bako community, Apata, same day.

They, however, alleged that the police were not doing anything to protect the lives and property of those living in the area.

In a related development, gunmen killed a motorcyclist in the Akinyele Local Government Area of the state.

The incident occurred in the early hours of Sunday at Labi Junction, along the Oyo-Ibadan Expressway.

The Oyo State Police Public Relations Officer, Adewale Osifeso, did not take his calls or respond to text messages and chats sent to him on the three incidents.

## FRSC blames speed violation as 413 killed in Ba



• Scene of an accident

Armstrong Bakam, Bauchi

**N**O fewer than 413 people were killed in 480 crashes that occurred across Bauchi State from January to December 2021.

The Bauchi State Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps, Yusuf Abdullahi, disclosed this in a statement on Sunday.

Abdullahi said 2,157 people sustained varying degrees of injury in the crashes, which involved 3,586 people.

According to him, most of the crashes were caused by speed violation and reckless driving.

He said, "From January to December 2021, Bauchi State recorded a total of 480 road traffic crashes in the 4,000-kilometre road network in the state."

"These are made up of 162 fatal crashes and 307 serious crashes."

"A total of 3,586 people were involved. No fewer than 413 people were killed in these crashes, while 2,157 others sustained various degrees of injury."

"The common causes of these crashes, which we identified, were speed violation and reckless driving, particularly wrongful overtaking."

"Most of these road traffic crashes occurred in the evening and at night. Also, 80 per cent of these crashes involved

## minimals arrested during Christmas, New Year in Ondo - Amotekun

Akogun Adeleye, who disclosed this during an interview with our correspondent, said the suspects were arrested for their involvement in criminal activities in the state during the festive period.

Adeleye, who also disclosed that over 500 vehicles were impounded, stated that some of the suspects

had been charged to court

He said, "We assured the people of Ondo State hitch-free Christmas and New Year festivities and to the glory of God throughout the period, there were no criminal activities. In one or two instances where we had security breaches, the criminals were all arrested and brought to book."

"In the last one month, for only two weeks, the ban on unregistered vehicles and vehicles without permits and the restriction on the use of Okada in the night, brought to a standstill 80 per cent criminal activities in Ondo State."

"Initially, people were not happy until they realised that it was for their good. Again, within the first 15 days of manning all major junctions and entry points of the state capital and all local government headquarters, we were able to impound over 550 vehicles and arrest over 600 suspects."

"We found out that criminal activities in the main towns went down completely and people travelling started having problems. That was why we moved to the border patrols and you will recall that within 48 hours of commencement of the patrols, we were confronted by kidnappers and armed robbers. Seventeen victims were rescued in two separate operations."

## fire razes stores, destroys goods

He said, "There was a fire incident in the Nguru Central Market around 1.30am on Saturday. It burnt down over 300 shops belonging to marketers who specialise in wholesales."

"These dealers worked late into the night on Friday as they restocked their shops with goods delivered to them by train from Kano. You know there is a rail track that terminates at Nguru town from Kano, so these dealers often transport their goods by train from Kano."

"Their goods arrived on Friday

evening, about the time they were to close business for the day, but they had to stay back to offload the goods into their various stalls after which they left very late in the night, say about 12 midnight."

Yaro stated that the cause of the fire had yet to be ascertained.

"We don't know how the fire came about; it burnt down more than half of the stores in the modern market."

"As of 5pm (Saturday), fire service is still struggling to put out the fire to show you the enormous damage to the market," he added.