

40 Prisoners Shot Dead In Ibadan Jail Break

Woman Batters Maid With Electric Cable

PAUL DADA &
ASTRO JEWOOLA

A 35 year-old woman, Mrs. Blessing Unadike Ude, a mother of two, is explaining to the police why she battered her 12-year old housemaid, Miss Ejeoma Ibe, with an electric cable.

Ude, who lives at 25, Coker compound, Erife-Iganmu, Lagos, was arrested by the police from the Juvenile Welfare Centre (JWC) Alakara, Mushin for the act.

The accused woman was said to have beaten up the girl at about 2:00 a.m. last Thursday in her house.

According to Ejeoma: "I felt it

tor Chigor, 40, a freelance journalist, came to my rescue. He brought me down to Orile police station, where the matter was first reported.

In her statement, Ude told the police that she had constantly warned Ejeoma to desist from tampering with her phone.

"I warned Ejeoma not to tamper with my phone as I had lost two of such phones through her carelessness. But what happened today is the handiwork of the devil because I was seriously annoyed," she said.

Mr. James Ude, 45, Blessing's husband testified that his wife was unjustified and

GBENRO ADESINA/Ibadan

At least 40 prisoners at Agodi Prison, Gate, were reportedly shot dead this morning in Ibadan, capital of Oyo State as they attempted to escape from the prison custody.

Although, prison and police authorities declined to confirm the incident at the time of filing this report, it was exclusively gathered that the prisoners were shot dead by policemen who tried to prevent them from escaping.

News men were not allowed into the prison but security operatives who spoke to our correspondent under anonymity said that the bodies of the 40 prisoners that died were left at the prison yard, adding that they would be buried later today.

Also, at least five prison warders were seriously injured as one of them who is currently on danger list was rushed to the University Teaching Hospital (UCH) hospital for treatment.

At least 100 mobile policemen and the regular cops were drafted to arrest the situation, as three parts of the jail were broken to facilitate the prisoners' escape.

According to a reliable source, the incident, which started about

6:30am, had been planned by the prisoners for long before it was executed today.

Although police sources revealed that condemned criminals carried out the jail break, *P.M. News* gathered that majority of those that wanted to escape were awaiting trial prisoners.

Our sources revealed that trouble started when some warders who wanted to feed the prison-

Continued On Pg.2

**Big Crowd
Welcomes
Gallant
Golden
Eaglets
—Pg.2**

40 Prisoners

Continued From Pg. 1

ers went to open the prison door for them to come and have their breakfast.

After opening the door, they rushed them and overpowered the warders, beat them mercilessly with dangerous weapons and attempted to break other parts of the prison to enable them escape.

While attempting to escape, information filtered got to the police command, Eleyele and the state Police Commissioner, Mr. Udom U. Ekpoudom quickly drafted policemen to the scene.

At Gate this morning, policemen forced people to raise their hands in the air while bringing the situation under control

Activities at the Gate area of Ibadan were paralysed because of the incident.

Policemen were still patrolling Gate and Iwo Road at the time of filing this report.