

CRIMEwatch

Market woman, two others killed during robbery attack at Jattu

•Residents send SOS to Adams, police

BY CHRISTOPHER OJI

Residents of Jattu, Uzairue of Eksako West Local government Area of Edo State, are still in shock over the raiding of the area by armed robbers.

Dare devil armed robbers had recently held travelers passing through Benin-Auchi road, Jattu by the jugular killing, maiming and robbing them.

After the terror gang had left the scene of the robbery, three persons were reportedly killed including a market woman while several others were seriously injured.

The market woman, Julian Okoai was hit by a bullet on the neck while the robbers were firing sporadically to scare people away.

An eyewitness who simply identified himself as Timo gave the chilling accounts: "On the fateful day, about noon, our vehicle ran into the robbery scene and all the occupants in my taxi cab were ordered out of the car and we were all robbed.

"As we were being ransacked, a cab carrying some passengers also ran into the scene and madam Okoai was inside the car. I can't really say what transpired again as the one I knew was that gang commander started dishing out order that his gang should divide themselves into two. The robbers split themselves into two as their command ordered them.

"All of a sudden, we started hearing gun shots. The robbers were firing sporadically perhaps to scare the police and in the process, the bullet hit passengers and the driver of the vehicle that madam Okoai was in. the woman and the driver of the vehicle died instantly. Another passenger in another vehicle also died. And other victims were seriously injured.

"Madam Okoai was very popular in our area. That is why you still see us mourning her. We are sill in shock."

Another eyewitness, Maria Osazua

described the day as a dark day. "It was as if the eyes have seen the ear. Robbers have been terrorizing the route in the past without even injuring their victims. But on the fateful day, three harmless victims were killed without provocation. When the robbers had finished disposing them of their belongings, they started shooting, it was wicked of them.

The businesswoman has therefore called on the governor of the state, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole to prevail on the state commissioner of police to detail his men to patrol the Auchi-Benin road during the Christmas season to forestall the repeat of armed robbery attack that has claimed the lives of Jattu indigenes.

A family source said the woman would be buried on December 29, 2013.

"This woman had bought some items preparing for the Christmas but we are going to use the things she kept for Christmas for her funeral rites.

He also called on Adams Oshiomhole to wade into the matter to seeing that the perpetrators of the dastardly act are be arrested and brought to book.

"We also appeal the State Commissioner of Police to save us from the hands of armed robbers who have been terrorizing the Benin-Auchi road.



•Okoai