

April 27, 2015, 10:17 AM WAT



NATIONAL

POLITICS

BUSINESS

SPORTS

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

FEATURES

OPINION

COLUMNS ▾

YOU ARE AT: [Home](#) » [National](#) » The bizarre story of 15-man gang terrorizing Lagos community

The bizarre story of 15-man gang terrorizing Lagos community

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BY OUR REPORTER ON APRIL 26, 2015

NATIONAL

BY AYO ALONGE (ayhalliday@yahoo.com)

The police have arrested four out of a robbery gang of 15 though they've denied involvement in robbery despite the fact that three of them were identified by a complainant.

The complainant (identity with-held) reportedly said a gang of 15 waylaid him while on his way to work between 5am and 6am of a particular day and one of the robbers threatened to kill him if he dared resist them.

They were fair enough to spare his life but attacked him with a broken bottle slashing his head and dispossessed him of his belongings including a piece of jewelry worth N105,000, a Blackberry Z30 phone worth N45,000, an expensive wristwatch and N150,000 cash which according to him was his rent.

Two of the robbers were arrested shortly after the complainant, in the company of his friend who also witnessed the crime, went to the nearest police station to report the case.

"I rushed to the Iponri Police Station to quickly report the case. The DCO then asked me to take a photograph and I did because I was badly injured. A week later, I was at my office complex in Ebute-Metta and I saw four of the robbers sitting in a thicket in the vicinity and I recognized them. Subsequently, I quickly went to some policewomen and we ran after them but caught only one of them. The other three ran away. Later on, he was taken to the police station at Alagomeji. The police from Iponri came to Alagomeji Police Station and took the suspect away. Later, I noticed the police had caught another member of the gang.

"Since the incident happened, the gang leaders have been calling me with an unknown number and threatening me never to dare come back to the community again. They said they would kill me if I did."

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Further investigations revealed that the boys may have been the miscreants disturbing the peace of the community, robbing and killing. *Sunday Sun* also gathered that the said gang could have been the brain behind a recent robbery which resulted in the killing of someone about a fortnight ago.

According to the complainant "I can recognize a lot of them because they have been constituting a nuisance in the Apapa road area of Ebute-Metta. I just go on my own and never have I had any issue with anyone in the community."

Further investigation by *Sunday Sun* revealed that the said gang may have also been responsible for robbing a certain man, popularly called "Pastor." The incident happened at Olaleye Level Crossing, a notable place within the Ebute-Metta axis.

Sunday Sun was reliably informed that some of the gang members include Ajo Sodi Olabisi (ringleader), Igbe Wasiu, Seye Forgo, Job, Eba, Ratio, Fatai Iscomin, Otolu and Ijoba all of who have threatened the complainant. We also gathered that they ply their heinous trade at Oluseye, Abule-Nla road in Ebute-Metta with ease.

The complainant's friend, a stylist, who also pleaded to be anonymous, shared his side of the story. He told our reporter "I was escorting him to work that morning and the gang just waylaid us and pointed to him particularly, saying 'this is the guy, this is the guy'. I was also injured myself in my attempt to defend my friend. After the robbery, we went to a police station to report the case."

The four suspects are currently in detention although one of them, Lanre Ogunsanwo, is said to be innocent.

Wakilu Akintunde, 21, tailor, is the eighth child of the nine children of his parents who live in Agege area of Lagos. He is allegedly one of the masterminds of the robbery, although he outrightly denied ever meeting the complainant. His words: "I have never seen him before. I swear. It happened that I saw some people running and I just ran into the train station just to take refuge. I was surprised to be accused of being a member of the gang that carried out the robbery. I had just alighted from a train and was expecting to board a bus that would convey me to Lagos Island.

Ojomu Olasukanmi, 20, mechanic, who lives in Olokodana in the Apapa Road area of Ebute-Metta, Lagos, is another suspect allegedly involved in the robbery. He also outrightly denied involvement even when the complainant was able to recognize him. According to him, "It was a case of two fighting over a lady (Yetunde). He (complainant) was dating the same lady I was dating in the neighborhood. As we live in the same area, I saw him with my girlfriend when I was outside the house, relaxing. I walked up to him and challenged him and that was how we started fighting. After the fight, I was trying to hide from the police who had come to raid people. That was how I was arrested", said Ojomu.

Our reporter also spoke with Lanre Ogunsanwo, 20, a bus conductor who lives in Apapa and he said "Even the complainant has said I'm innocent saying that he does not know me. I was arrested around 10pm at Apapa Road. I was made to understand that some street urchins were fighting at the time I walked past. I hardly come to that area except when I go to see my mum who is a beggar. My dad died since 2005", he lamented.

Meanwhile the police are keeping a close tab on other members of the gang, while other suspects in their custody are helping in the investigation of the case.

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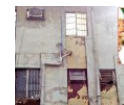
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