

• Suspects arrested by the Police

From **Olanrewaju Lawal**, Birnin-Kebbi

DISTURBED by the incessant stealing of motorcycles, people of Kebbi State have resorted to jungle justice against suspected thieves. There has been an upsurge in the number of suspected motorcycle thieves killed by angry mobs in different parts of the state.

In February, Abu Umar, a native of Sanyina in Tambuwa, in Sokoto State and a suspected motorcycle thief, survived a mob action in Dankowasagu village only to be chased soon after to his place of custody and eventually killed. Witnesses told Daily Sun that the suspected was initially arrested inside a market while attempting to steal a motorcycle and was nearly lynched by an

angry mob, but for the men of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), who happened to be nearby.

But dissatisfied that he had survived, residents mobilised and stormed the NSCDC office in their hundreds, retrieved the suspect from cell and burned him to ashes. Soliu Abu, who witnessed the tragic scene said: "An angry market crowd stormed the NSCDC station in the town, vandalised their office with stones, ransacked the office, searched for the suspect and killed him in front of the station."

The state Commandant of NSCDC, Sammani Mohammed Ringim, who who confirmed the story, added that the remains of the suspect were buried in a public cemetery.

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Another suspect, Umar, was rescued from the jaws of death by the police in Birnin-Kebbi after he was nabbed while trying to steal a motorcycle. At the point of his rescue, he had been gravely injured and devastated and was immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment. It was not clear if he survived.

The reason for the wave of public anger against motorcycle thieves is not far-fetched. It was gathered that apart from the recorded increase in the number of the theft of commercial motorcycles, these thieves are of the habit of robbing their victims by the use of force.

Bello Ibrahim, a resident of Birnin-Kebbi

said: "The anger against the thieves is predicted on the ruthless manner in which they rob the owners of these motor cycles. In the course of their exploit, which is pathetic, they kill and maim and harm without the least of care.

"They lure motorcyclists, otherwise known as 'Kabukabu' to drive them to rarely used, often isolated paths before they strike. They strike their victims with extreme wickedness; they stab them with knives and other dangerous weapons before depriving them of their motorcycles, their means of livelihood.

"Often, the motorcycle robbers carry along with them hidden knives as they flag