

Angry mob burns suspected motorcycle thief

From **Rose Ejembi,**
Makurdi

A young man was, yesterday, set ablaze for allegedly attempting to steal a motorcycle, at the Wurukum Market area of Makurdi, the Benue State capital.

Eyewitnesses told newsmen that the suspected motorcycle thief was caught while he was trying to use a master key to unlock a motorcycle, which the owner had just parked and entered the market.

"Some onlookers, who saw all that was happening, raised the alarm which made the thief to start running away.

"Luck, however, ran out on him as some youths caught him and wasted no time in sourcing for a used tyre, petrol and matches to set him ablaze. As I speak to you now, smoke from his remains is billowing as I can see from where I'm standing," the eyewitness narrated.

One of our sources, who

simply gave his name as Timothy, explained that the angry mob lynched the suspect because incidents of theft and armed robbery at the Wurukum area were becoming very worrisome.

"Almost on a daily basis, these bad boys keep snatching one thing or another from innocent and unsuspecting members of the

public. I guess that's why the people were angry that this one dared to steal in broad day light."

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer PPRO, Catherine Anene, who confirmed the report condemned the act, saying some of the times, the victims of such jungle justices are innocent after all.

Suspected kidnapper set ablaze, police rescue another in Lagos

By **Christopher Oji**

THERE was pandemonium, yesterday, at the Agege area of Lagos as an angry mob set ablaze a suspected kidnapper, while another was rescued by the police.

While the police attempted to rescue the kidnapping suspects, the angry mammoth crowd pelted them with stones and other dangerous weapons, but they were able to rescue one of suspects.

It was gathered that two

occupants of a White Golf car were seen loitering around Mulero Bus stop Agege area of the State and the residents, who suspected that they were kidnappers, raised the alarm which attracted some motorbikes who attacked the occupants before other passersby joined in the attack.

A witness, Felicia Maduagwu, said: "You know there have been rumours that kidnappers have invaded Lagos, so people are

She advised members of the public against taking laws into their hands, but rather hand over any suspect to the police for proper investigation and prosecution.

"Incident confirmed, and the act of setting a human being ablaze is condemned by the Command. There are legal means of handling such issues," Anene said.

apprehensive. I can't say if the two guys were kidnappers or not, but before we knew what was happening, many people had gathered and started attacking them with daggers, cutlasses, stones, bottles and other weapons.

"It was while they were attacking the victims that the police raced to the scene to rescue them and hell was let loose as the mob, numbering over 1,000, resisted the police and attacked them with everything at

The State had witnessed series of kidnappings and killings in recent time, while scores of cases relating to farmers-herders' clashes had also been recorded, which signalled that Ekiti was under threat.

This was contained in a statement in Ado-Ekiti, yesterday, and signed by the Council's General Secretary, Niyi Ajibulu.

The Council said it was imperative for the stakeholders, including Governor

their disposal. The police made a retreat and called for reinforcement. But before the reinforcement could respond, one of them had been set ablaze. However, one of them was rescued, but I doubt if he will survive as he received serious machete cuts all over his body."

Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Olumuyiwa Adejobi, said the Command has commenced investigation into the killing.