

# Bandits kill soldier, 2 Customs officers in Edo, Kebbi

From **Ighomuaye Lucky**, Benin and **Olanrewaju Lawal** Birnin Kebbi

**GUNMEN** suspected to be armed robbers have attacked an army patrol van, killing a soldier and carting away a sack (Ghana-Must-Go bag) believed to have been loaded with cash, in broad daylight in Benin City, Edo State.

Three soldiers were said to have been in the military vehicle heading towards the Ikpoba Hill axis, when the assailants ambushed them at the traffic lights, along Akpakpava road by First Junction, about 2:10pm, in the state capital, on Wednesday.

It was gathered that the hoodlums drove an unmarked ash-colour Toyota Camry car against the traffic (one way) towards the army's vehicle, as two of the four occupants alighted and opened fire on the soldiers.

The three soldiers, who were caught unawares in the web of bullets, reportedly abandoned their patrol vehicle and the loaded "Ghana-must-Go" bag, as they ran helter-skelter for safety.

Witnesses said one of the fleeing soldiers was, however, unlucky as he fell down and died about 84 meters away from the scene of attack, following serious injuries he sustained from the assailants' bullets.

At the scene of the attack, Akpakpava Road, by First East Circular Road junction, Benin, witnesses said the attackers grabbed the bag from the military patrol van, dropped it in their operational Toyota Camry car and sped off. Some hawkers, who witnessed and narrated the ugly attack, said many people around would have died if the soldiers had the opportunity to respond to the gunfire of their attackers.

"One of the three soldiers fell down there while running away; he tried to get up, but he couldn't because he was bleeding. Later, his two other colleagues came out to meet him, but they were helpless. Imagine a popular and busy junction like this, the government cannot install security cameras to record whatever is going on here, it's unfortunate," a shop owner said.

It could not, however, be as-

certained whether the soldiers were armed and their arms taken away by the assailants.

When contacted, the Public Relations Officer, 4 Brigade Nigerian Army Headquarters, Benin City, Captain Yusuf Sokoya, said: "Ok, I will find out if it is true, don't call again, I will call you".

At press time, Capt. Sokoya was yet to call. But the spokesman of the Edo State Police Command, SP Chidi

Nwabuzor, while confirming the incident, said a soldier was killed when hoodlums attacked a military patrol vehicle at First Junction, Akpakpava road, Benin City, some minutes past 2pm.

"Edo State Police Command can confirm that a military personnel was killed today in Benin City. A good Nigerian reported the incident at the police station covering that neighbourhood. The hoodlums carted away a "Ghana-Must-Go" bag believed

to have been loaded with cash kept inside the army van.

"Since they were in their patrol vehicle, they should be armed. The assailants acted on information. Investigation will unravel all that," SP Chidi Nwabuzor said.

Also, suspected bandits killed two officers of the Nigeria Customs Service on patrol along Dakingari-Koko road in Kebbi State.

(Continued on [www.sunnewsonline.com](http://www.sunnewsonline.com))

## 12 die in Nasarawa boat mishap

From **Abel Leonard**, Lafia

**NASARAWA** State witnessed a grim boat mishap which claimed the lives of 12 individuals. The unfortunate incident occurred at the Kogi Kungra Kamfani river in Arikiya, Lafia Local Government Area.

Daily Sun gathered that out of the 19 passengers on board, only seven were fortunate enough to be rescued, while the rest met their untimely end. The entire state is engulfed in sorrow over the tragedy.

During an emergency session held in Lafia, yesterday, the Speaker of the Nasarawa State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Ibrahim Balarabe Abdullahi, expressed deep condolences on behalf of the assembly to both the state government and Lafia local government. He extended his sympathies to the bereaved families.

Speaker Abdullahi said: "It is very sad that we lost 12 people, men and women, in a boat mishap in Arikiya, Lafia LGA. Lafia LGA and our dear state have been thrown into mourning over this sad incident. The loss of 12 lives has sent shockwaves through the community, leaving a void that words can scarcely fill."

The House of Assembly called on the affected families, Lafia LGA, and the state govern-

ment to find strength in the face of this irreplaceable loss. "On behalf of myself, honourable members and the staff, we condole with the bereaved families, Lafia LGA and the state government over the death of those who lost their lives in the

boat mishap," affirmed Speaker Abdullahi.

"As the community unites in shared grief, prayers are offered for the departed souls to find eternal peace," he added.

In the solemn atmosphere of the assembly, lawmakers ob-

served a minute silence as a mark of respect and honour for the lives tragically lost. The Speaker also offered prayers, seeking forgiveness for any shortcomings of the departed and asking for their souls to find solace in the afterlife.

## Gunmen kill Kaduna cleric

From **Sola Ojo**, Kaduna

**YET** to be identified gunmen have allegedly killed a cleric while working on his farm, located at Prison Farms, Kujama in Chikun Local Government area of Kaduna State.

Kujama is an agrarian town located about 15 minutes drive from Kaduna, the Capital City of Kaduna State.

A family source said Reverend Jeremiah Mayau, who is in charge of Tawaliu Baptist Church Kujama, was shot by his assailants in the afternoon of Wednesday, August 23.

Confirming the unfortunate incident, Chairman, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Kaduna State, Reverend John Joseph Hayab, regretted that crimes like this still happen in Kaduna in broad daylight.

"With total submission to the will of God, we announce the passing away of our Spiritual Father, Colleague, Rev. Jeremiah Mayau, who was shot

by gunmen, on Wednesday afternoon, in his farm at Prison Farms Kujama, Chikun LGA of Kaduna State.

Hayab, however, called on

the Federal and State Governments to intensify efforts in securing lives and property of Nigerians, irrespective of where they live.

## Female students of Rivers varsity protest rape, robbery on campus

From **Tony John**, Port Harcourt

**SCORES** of female students of the Rivers State University (RSU), Nkpulu, Port Harcourt, besieged the school campus, following an armed robbery attack which occurred at the early hours of yesterday, at Hostel D.

They (students) also called on the university authorities to prioritise their safety and wellbeing by ensuring that such acts do not reoccur.

Some of the students who took part in the protest expressed their anger over the lack of security measures to protect the hostels.

They called on the university administration to address the severe lapses in security, which allowed armed men to gain ac-

cess to the premises, especially hostels and carry out such agonising acts.

Some of the aggrieved students lamented that the armed robbers stole their property, including cash.

Other protesters claimed they were raped by the robbers who had unhindered access to the hostel. As of the time of this report, the school authority was yet to come out with an official statement on the development.

Meanwhile, the Rivers State Police Command has directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Operations, Area Commander Port Harcourt and Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Nkpulu, to provide adequate security on the campus.

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