

# Widow killed for identifying robber during operation



Lagos CP, Owoseni

## Taiwo Jimoh

**A** widow and mother of two, Mrs. Uju Ononaeze, was killed when armed robbers stormed three streets at the Ijegun area of Lagos State.

The robbers, numbering about 40, last month stormed the area in five commercial buses and robbed several residents of their valuables.

Ononaeze was reportedly

shot in the forehead after she identified and called out the name of one of the robbers during the operation.

The bandits started operation from Amofia Street about 1a.m. and ended about 1:30a.m. They later proceeded to Mustapha and Anjorin streets, where they also robbed some residents of money and other valuables.

One of the victims, Mrs. Adejoke Kehinde, said everybody in the compound had

gone to bed, when suddenly they heard a loud noise.

She said: "It was the voice of a man. He was asking everyone to come out and submit whatever valuables they had. Our compound was just like a mini-estate. We have about several rooms. One of the robbers scaled the fence of the compound, landed inside and opened the gate for others. They started their operation from my apartment. They beat up my husband, collected his money and laptop."

Kehinde said she and her husband had been residing in the area for over 12 years and had never witnessed such massive robbery operation.

She added: "There are over 30 rooms and these robbers took time in raiding each room. Immediately they left our apartment, they went to my neighbour's, Mrs. Uju Ononaeze. They shot her in the head after collecting money from her."

It was learnt that while some of the robbers were robbing Ononaeze, others went into different apartments in

the compound.

The deceased, who lost her husband two years ago, was said to have identified one of the robbers. When the robbers realised she knew one of them, they shot her.

Another resident, identified simply as Uche, said he prayed to God never to allow him go through what he went through in the hands of the robbers that night.

He said: "I was already asleep when two of the robbers broke into my apartment. They woke me up with their machetes. They started beating me, demanding money. I gave them the money with me. After that incident, I have not been able to sleep with my two eyes closed.

"After the incident, some residents moved out of the compound. The robbers, while leaving, promised to return soon. They also took away some of my drinks. What annoyed me most was that some of the robbers, who were arrested by policemen from Isheri after the robbery, were said to have been released later. We have taken to self-protection in the community"

Another resident, who didn't want his name in print, said: "My two-year-old boy started having constant nightmares after the robbery incident.

Police arrest two cultists, recover arms