

Dominic Adewole,
ASABA

Three killed in police, kidnappers shootout on River Niger Bridge

Pandemonium broke out at the defunct Toll-Gate, along the Benin-Onitsha expressway in Asaba, Delta State, when gunmen engaged police in gun duel.

The gunmen, numbering four and suspected to be kidnappers threw commuters, market men and women at Agbogidi Motor Park, close to the Toll Gate, on River Niger Bridge, into confusion.

The ever-busy Toll-Gate, which is before the Bridge, was in turmoil for over 20 minutes before three of the suspects who operated in an ash coloured Toyota Corolla car and disguised as Christian evangelists by wearing cassock, were gunned down.

Saturday Telegraph gathered that the suspects had laid siege to a bar in the park, waiting to pounce on their victim - a United Kingdom (UK-based) native of Asaba, who was coming home through Abuja for the Christmas celebration.

An unknown person had allegedly played a mole on the family of the victim by giving out information to the hoodlums about his arrival.

"The gang was patiently waiting for signal at the drinking joint from the mole on the appropriate person and time to act when the police swooped on them," a top police source hinted.

An eyewitness said it was the hoodlums who first opened fire when they sighted the police, "that was how the detectives responded. In the ensuing gun duel, three of the suspected kidnappers fell to the superior fire power of the

police."

But the Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr. Zanna M. Ibrahim, who confirmed the shootout, said: "My men acted on credible information from members of the public to achieve the feat," noting that policemen were currently on the trail of the mole.

He listed the operational vehicle, a Toyota Corolla with

registration number Delta SAP 818 AA, one AK 47 rifle, one pump action gun, one locally made pistol with 19 rounds of 7.6mm, eight live cartridges, one expended cartridge and church aprons, among the items that were recovered.

The CP commended the people at the motor-park for the assistance they gave to the police during the opera-

tion and called on the general public to always provide the command with useful information about the activities of hoodlums, assuring that "the confidentiality of any informant will maintained."

"Today is a good day for the command and a very bad day for the bad guys. Only God knows what could have transpired if they were not caught.

That is why we keep assuring the people that whenever they give credible information, it will be treated in confidentiality.

"Our partnership with the people is to nip crime in the bud and not to allow crime to happen and then you want us to investigate when you are not

sure that investigation will lead us somewhere.

"We are on the trail of the mole in the family, he does not know that this has happened yet. And the target knows about it, he will fish him out but we don't want to expose the target yet until we are done," he added.

Ogunlewe, FUNAAB VC, ex-Bursar arraigned over alleged fraud

Kunle Olayeni,
ABEOKUTA

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday arraigned the Pro-Chancellor of Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olu-sola Oyewole, and a former Bursar of the institution, Mr. Moses Ilesanmi, over alleged fraud.

The accused persons were arraigned separately and jointly on an 18-count charge bordering on alleged stealing, abuse of office and fraudulent conversion of the

university property before Justice O. O. Majekodunmi of the Ogun State High Court 6, Isabo, Abeokuta.

Ogunlewe, a former Minister of Works, as well as Oyewole and Ilesanmi, were arrested on Wednesday and subsequently detained by operatives of the anti-graft agency following a petition written by some concerned members of FUNAAB.

The accused persons, who were brought to court yesterday in a Nissan Urvan bus marked Abuja BWR 633 AT, however, pleaded not guilty when all the charges were read to them.

Counsel to Ogunlewe, who is the first accused person, Wale Adesokan (SAN), urged the court to grant his client bail, pending the trial

of the case.

He said a bail application dated November 24 was filed before the court and served on the prosecution.

Adesokan, who supported his application with 26 paragraphs affidavit and a written address, argued that the charges were bail-able just as he explained that Ogunlewe had been made to appear at EFCC office on a weekly basis without jumping bail.

In the same vein, counsel to the Vice Chancellor, Benjamin Ogunmodede, informed the court of a pending bail application which, he said, was dated November 24.

Ogunmodede submitted that it was the constitutional right of the second accused person to be admitted to bail.

Police parade Basketmouth's alleged attackers

Adedayo Odulaja

The police in Lagos have paraded two robbery suspects in connection with the invasion of the Lekki home of Bright Okpocha, better known as Basketmouth two months ago.

A statement by Dolapo Badmos, Public Relations Officer of the Lagos Police Command yesterday said the suspected robbers were arrested last Wednesday during another operation in the Ilasamaja part of the state.

The statement noted:

"On 16th November 2016, the command arrested one Chimezie Joseph while carrying out armed robbery operation at Ilasamaja area of the state. His arrest led to the arrest of another gang member Chibuzor who further investigation revealed is the leader of the gang that attacked the comedian."

Items recovered from the suspects are one Beretta pistol, two locally made pistol, two AK 47 rifles loaded with ammunitions, 12 live cartridges, two iron cutters, master keys, one Mercedes 4matic Benz jeep.

CHANGE AND CONFIRMATION OF NAME

SOLIU

This is to notify the general public that the names BASIRU HAYISAT A. and SOLIU AYISAT F. refer to one and the same person. Henceforth, I wish to be known and addressed as SOLIU AYISAT F. Also my date of birth was wrongly written as March 27, 1977 instead of March 27, 1979, which is the correct date. All former documents remain valid. First Bank and the general public take note.

TARIU AVFEA

FREDRICK

Formerly known, called and addressed as ONYEJUWA EWOH and FREDRICK EWOH now wish to be known, called and addressed as ONYEJUWA FREDRICK EWOH. All former documents remain valid. Diamond Bank, Fidelity Bank and the general public should please take note.

ANFI ECHI

Why I revoked parcels of land -Wike