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Robbers Attack Luxury Buses, Kill 15 Traders

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Armed bandits in the early hours of Friday killed 15 Igbo traders who were going to Onitsha from Lagos, while scores of others were severely injured with bullet wounds.

Saturday Tribune learnt that the robbers, numbering about 10, launched attack on the traders around Itokin on old Lagos/Epe Expressway as the drivers of the luxury buses that conveyed them refused to stop on the order of the gang.

It was also learnt that six of the traders died instantly when they were hit by bullets from the armed robbers. One of the luxury buses was said to have lost control and plunged into the bush resulting in the death of 10 of the traders while others got seriously injured.

It was also gathered that four of the drivers against all odds managed to drive their buses to Ijebu-Ode by 2:30 a.m. where the wounded were taken to the State Hospital, Ijebu-Ode and a private hospital for treatment.

The buses were said to have been riddled with bullets and blood.

The Medical Director of the General Hospital, Ijebu-Ode, Dr. Wellington Ogunsanya, said over 20 persons with bullet wounds were brought to the hospital.

One of the traders who survived the attack, Ejike Maduekwe, said the robbers laid ambush for them and that it could only have happened probably because the armed bandits had a privileged information that they would be passing through Epe-Ikorodu road.

He said that the drivers decided to pass through the routes because of the bad spots at the Ilishan-Ososa stretch of the Sagamu-Ore Expressway where armed robbers normally held sway unchallenged as soon as evening set in .

Efforts to get confirmation of the incident from the Ogun State Police Command proved abortive.