

Robbers, police in gun duel in Adamawa •Police corporal shoots inspector, kills self

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THE people of Yola, the Adamawa State capital were thrown into confusion in the early hours of Tuesday, following an exchange of gunfire between armed robbers and the police.

This was sequel to the attack on the Jimeta Divisional Police Station located in the heart of the state capital. Though no casualty was recorded as the police repelled the attackers who later fled, the attack on the divisional police station located very close to the Jimeta prison, also caused panic but security operatives attached to the prison mobilised to send the attackers away.

While confirming the incident, Adamawa State Commissioner of Police, Mr Adeurele Shinaba, said that at about 12.40 a.m. On Tuesday, gunmen in a Toyota vehicle opened fire on the station. "But our men who were on the alert at the station responded and the attackers fled. No casualty was recorded on the side of the police," the commissioner stated.

However, the police boss said that a manhunt had already been launched to track down the attackers.

Shinaba also told newsmen that the command, on Tuesday, recorded an ugly incident in which a police corporal went berserk, killing a police inspector, injuring another at Lala Police station in Gombi Local Government Area of the state before killing himself.

The commissioner, who gave the name of the enraged police corporal as Nuhu Isiaku, said that he picked the station rifle and shot Inspector Benjamin Tizhe, the Charge Room Officer and one Corporal Chokisa Inchi before shooting and killing himself.

He disclosed that Corporal Inchi, who is responding to treatment in the hospital, would give a vivid account of the incident after leaving hospital.

In another development, a police corporal was, on Tuesday, confirmed dead after shooting a senior policeman of the rank of inspector and later shot himself in the chest.

An eyewitness informed Nigerian Tribune that the policemen, both attached to a company named Platgeria in the Trans-Amadi Industrial Layout of Port Harcourt, were engaged in a hot argument, during which the corporal threatened to shoot his superior. He carried out the threat and killed himself afterwards.

According to a source, who was within the vicinity where the sad incident occurred, the argument was suspected to be over money as there were rumours after the incident that the deceased felt cheated in the sharing of money.

"I cannot say for sure what caused the argument, but I have heard people from the company saying the problem is all about an amount of money they got from someone in the company and that the corporal felt cheated and threatened to shoot.

"The other man did not help matters because he was also daring him. Maybe he thought the angry man was making a mere threat. I wasn't really paying attention until I heard the first shot, which threw the unarmed man to the ground. Before you could even say or do anything, the man had shot himself in the chest," the witness said.

The incident scene was, however, taken over by a heavy deployment of policemen in vans, which threw the whole area into confusion, leading to a heavy traffic jam in the area.

Attempts to ascertain the identities of the policemen involved were not successful, but the Rivers State police command's spokesman, Ben Ugwuegbulam (DSP), confirmed the incident, saying there was no prior grievance between the policemen.

He also confirmed that only the corporal lost his life in the incident, as he resisted attempts by medical officials to save him, adding that the attacked Inspector was responding to treatment.

"Today, 6.3.12, at about 0900hrs, a police corporal, attached to B Ops, while on duty at plot 278, Platgeria Company, Trans-Amadi Industrial Layout, Port Harcourt, shot and wounded in the leg an Inspector of police working with him on the same beat.

"Thereafter, the corporal shot himself in the chest. No grievances between them noticed before incident. Victims rushed to Teme Hospital for urgent medical treatment. The corporal later died refusing treatment by fighting the medical personnel.

"The Inspector is responding to treatment. The Ak 47 riffle used by the NCO has been recovered. State CID investigating," Ugwuegbulam said.