

Robbers on rampage in Ibadan, kill 2, destroy armoured personnel carrier

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Ibadan

ARMED robbers yesterday unleashed terror on residents of Sabongari area of Ibadan, killing two persons in the process and leaving three others injured.

According to an eyewitness account, the robbers numbering 40 came with sophisticated weapons and stormed the area around 1 a.m. shooting sporadically to scare the residents.

Immediately they gained entry to the densely populated area, the eye-witness said, the robbers blocked all the entrances and headed straight for a popular bureau de change known as Ibrofil using iron cutter to force the gates to the premises of the bureau de change open.

Sunday Vanguard gathered that the armed robbers succeeded in breaking the safe containing dollars, pounds and other foreign currencies. When *Sunday Vanguard* visited the scene, there were bullet holes on the walls of the bureau de change as well as some new cars. Also, the Hilux police van marked 36A was riddled with bullets.

One of the workers in the bureau de change who preferred

anonymity said that when the robbers came, one of the residents ran to the mosque and used the public address system to make distress call to security agents. He added that men of the Special Anti Robbery Squad (SARS) responded promptly, but they could not match the firepower of the robbers.

He narrated that the armoured personnel carrier (APC) which the police brought to the robbery scene was destroyed by the robbers. The source said that as a result of sporadic shots by the robbers, one Zakari Abedi, a resident, was shot in the head and died instantly. Another person, Kazeem Suara, a student of Oyo State College of Education was shot dead at Yemetu by the same gang of robbers and one unidentified man on motorcycle had his bowel ripped apart by bullets while two others sustained serious injuries.

He went on: "The robbers operated for two hours. They

came around 1.05 a.m. and left at about 3.20 a.m. They could have wreaked more havoc but for the stiff resistance of the residents. In fact, when the resistance was so much, the robbers left two AK 47 rifles and many rounds of ammunition in one bag and fled.

After leaving Sabo, investigations revealed that the robbers headed for Yemetu area in Ibadan and hid in a bushy parcel of land. On arrival in the area, residents were said to have raised alarm. Suara, who came out was shot dead immediately.

When the police public relations officer, in Oyo State, Mr. Olu Akinmoladun, was contacted, he confirmed the robbery incident saying his men did a wonderful job. He said: "It is true there was an armed robbery incident at Sabo. We responded to the distress call made by the residents. Our men matched them and shot some of the robbers who later escaped with bullet wounds."

Police arrest 31 chiefs in Bayelsa state over clashes

THIRTY-ONE traditional chiefs in Lياما and Egweama communities of the Brass local government area of Bayelsa State were arrested on Friday for failing to resolve violent clashes

between the people. The two communities had been fighting since February 23, following a violent clash that claimed 11 lives.

The chiefs had promised to call the youths to order when the state deputy governor Peremobwei Ebebi visited the area after the initial clash.

The police arrested the chiefs following their inability to call the youths to order, as well as due to the

latest spate of similar clashes.

It was learnt that the clashes were due to an alleged beating and kidnapping of three youths from Lياما by their Egweama

counterparts. The Lياما youths were said to have accompanied a boat carrying items belonging to oil service company, Emerald Energy Oil Services, when they were attacked.

Angered by the development, youths from Lياما launched an attack on their Egweama neighbours which led to the death of 11 persons and the destruction of houses.

The deputy governor who conducted an on-the-spot assessment visit to the troubled communities after the incident, pleaded with the chiefs to ensure that peace returned to the area.

Ebebi had warned that government would not hesitate to bring the full weight of the law to bear on any erring community. He reminded the chiefs that government had invested so much resources to ensure that peace reigned in the state.

Meanwhile, the arrested chiefs are being detained at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) in Yenegoa. The state police Public relations Officer, Mr Iniobong Ibokette, confirmed the arrests, saying the chiefs were helping in police investigations into the violent clashes.



Umar Musa Yar'Adua and Delta State governorship rally at the Warri Stadium, Friday.

Trail of militants community

number and the items recovered