

Night of rage as 70 robbers invade Computer village

Two police officers killed, millions of naira worth of computers, phones carted away

By Emma Nnadozie (Asst. Crime Editor)

It was like a night of many stars. But this time around, the stars were not renowned Nollywood actors and actresses, or reputable musicians. The stars were a vicious gang of dare-devil, heavily armed robbers. Their auditorium was the popular Computer village situated at the center of the capital of Lagos State, Ikeja.

Numbering over seventy, the armed robbers who came in different exotic vehicles including jeeps blocked all entry and exit points to the computer business center around 12 midnight last Saturday. Like an army of occupation, they stationed some of their members at the overhead bridge overlooking the nearest Police station, area F, in Mobalaji Bank Anthony Way.

Another group took prominent positions at the overhead bridge at Obi Akran while others took over the notorious and dreaded Ikeja under bridge. Other members of the gang were also posted at the entry and exit points to the village from Ikeja under bridge axis while others barricaded the junction leading to Anifowoshe and Medical Road.

City Scope gathered that the night marauders, who were also wearing chain bullets for their sophisticated weapons attacked the village and broke into some stores where they carted away heavy sums of money, cartons of computer accessories and handsets. Sources said they may have acted on a tip-off because they stole over N26 million from one of the stores they broke into. The money, according to the source, was earlier withdrawn from a bank by the owner who wanted to exchange it for his business trip to China the following Monday.

It was learnt that as they were carrying out the operation, they were also releasing sporadic shots into the air. Eyewitness account said a team of Policemen from Area F who responded swiftly after getting information about the operation got a dose of what they did not bargain for as their advances were totally checkmated by the gang of robbers who were stationed on top of the bridge at the Mobalaji Bank Anthony Way. The robbers reportedly released volleys of bullets towards them, thereby making it impossible for the policemen to get closer.

The Police however remained undaunted and immediately



Lagos State Commissioner, Mr. Udom Ekpo



Gov. Bola Tinubu of Lagos State

alerted their men from different locations in and around Ikeja including the special team permanently stationed at Iyana-Ipaja after the bloody clash between rival factions of National Union Of Road Transport Workers (NURTW).

This team came with the dreaded Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC). However, the arrival of the seemingly formidable team of policemen did little to scare the rampaging robbers who confronted them, fire-for-fire. In fact, unconfirmed reports said the police team was overpowered by the superior firepower of the marauders after a battle that lasted till 4 am. Some even

claimed that the APC tyres were badly damaged by the robbers and could have fallen into their hands but for the bravery of the police driver whom they said succeeded in driving out of the battle zone. Sources said that while the battle was raging, some of the robbers invaded the Police post at the village and succeeded in ransacking almost all the offices including toilets in search of policemen.

They reportedly created holes with their bullets in almost all the offices including that of the officer in-charge of the post. Interestingly, eyewitnesses said the gang that attacked the post parked a black jeep in front of the office with music blaring out of it. Sadly, it was gathered that the gang concluded their attack on the post by killing two unsuspecting police inspectors who were coming from the rail-crossing very close to the station and snatched their official rifles. One Police Constable who was on duty at the post was however lucky as he managed to climb the fence amidst heavy firing when he saw them. However, another unidentified Custom officer was not that lucky as he was shot on the legs when he ran into the gang. They left him for dead but

ended up riddling his car with bullets.

Residents of adjoining streets like Anifowoshe, Airport Road and Ikeja Inside told City Scope that there was heavy shooting in the area for hours and that the robbers later disappeared around 4am on Sunday.

Proprietress of popular eatery at Anifowoshe, B and B, Madam Beatrice told City Scope that she has never experienced the kind of attack before, having stayed in Ikeja for many years now. "No

sooner had we left our restaurant than we heard heavy shooting and we narrowly escaped being victims because many people who were still enjoying themselves at the joints in Anifowoshe were trapped till the whole thing ended early in the morning".

A business man who resides at Ipodo, another notorious area in Ikeja, Mr. Tony Anyaneme described the incident as 'a night that the big masquerades in the robbery profession took over all criminal activities in Ikeja'.

Crime waves in L

By Albert Akpor

Yaba: One armed robber gunned down in gun duel

It was end of the road for two dare devil armed robbers weekend in Lagos after their gang engaged the police in a shootout. City scope scooped that the gun men were robbing passengers on the popular Eko bridge when a distress was sent to the dreaded anti-robbery team of the SCID Yaba. In a swift response, the police men raced to the scene and upon sighting them the hoodlums opened fire on the police and a shootout between the police and the robbers soon ensued. In the process, one of the gun men was shot dead while others escaped with bullet wounds. One locally made pistol and one live cartridge were recovered at the scene.

Maryland: man arrested for armed robbery.

A middle-aged man identified as Ehis Okoronkwo is presently telling the police what he was doing with one locally made pistol and two live cartridges found on him some where in Maryland. The suspect whose address was yet known was reportedly arrested by eagle-eyed policemen attached to Ikeja Division who was on a stop and search duty at a black spot in the area. Upon interrogation, City scope was told that the man had confessed being a member of a notorious armed robbery gang that had terrorized the area for some time now. He equally mentioned one Gabriel Onwhumahi and Olu as being members of his gang.

Ajegunle: police arrest three for robbing bizman of N150,000

Three persons suspected to be armed robbers have been arrested by the police in Ajegunle Division for allegedly dispossessing a business man of N150,000. City scope was told that the trader who was identified as Jonah Moses of 92 Ayodele street Ajegunle was attacked by two armed gang while he was returning from his business point in Boundary market also in Ajegunle. He was said to have been dispossessed of his MyX7 GSM handset, another Ne handset and the sum of N150,000 at a corner along the boundary road. A distress was immediately sent to Ajegunle Division following which anti-robbery men raced to the scene and arrested the trio of Alpere Ibrahim, Samson Okunowo and Toareed Raimi all resident in Alayabigba street Ajegunle. The matter had since been transferred to the SCID for further investigation.

Bariga: One arrested for robbing bizman of N1.5m

A middle-aged man identified as Aineykebuo of 19 Igiolugbin street Ladilak Bariga is currently undergoing intensive interrogation at the State Criminal Investigation Department SCID Panti Yaba Lagos for allegedly robbing a businessman, one Taofeek Abiola Fadipe of the sum of one million naira and recharge cards valued at N500,000.00 in his business center. City scope gathered that three armed men operating on a motor bike popularly called okada had stormed the No 27 Igiolugbin street Ladilak business center of the victim and dispossessed

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