

# Robbers overrun Satellite town kill one, shot pregnant woman

By Albert Akpor

**L**AGOS—RESIDENTS of Satellite town, Lagos are presently living in perpetual fear of the unknown as dare-devil armed robbers have tightened their grip on the hitherto peaceful town.

For three consecutive weeks, men of the underworld have continued to unleash untold mayhem on residents leaving trails of woes and agonies on each occasion.

City scope investigation revealed that these armed robbers operate on commercial motorcycles popularly called *okada*. Curiously, the armed gang operate unperturbed fueling speculations that the police have gone to bed leaving residents at the mercy of these hoodlums.

On Monday last week, an unidentified middle-aged woman was shot dead by a gang of these rampaging armed robbers along the popular Marwa road. The armed gang also shot and wounded several others including a pregnant woman who was injured in her thighs. Time was 8.15pm.

Monday's operation was the height of it all as the robbers, in a show of bravado and operating in two different motor-cycles, threw caution to the winds, held residents of Marwa road area of satellite hostage for about one hour as usual, and raided no fewer than five social joints in the area. Valuables like GSM handsets and cash running into thousands of naira were carted away from their victims.

City scope was told that the armed gang, whose age bracket was given at, between 18 and 20, first stormed a popular drinking joint along the road operated by one Mr. Emmanuel Obiamiwe, ordered everybody to lie face down before dispossessing them of their belongings.

They reportedly moved to National bank junction where they also raided shops along the road while shooting sporadically into the air to scare away intruders. Sources said that while the bandits were fleeing, they ran into a commercial bus whose driver had taken to his heels on hearing the deafening sounds of the robbers' firing, leaving his passengers at their mercy.

The rampaging robbers reportedly shot several into the stationary vehicle conveying the passengers who were going to their respective homes after a church service. One of the passengers, a middle-aged woman, had her skull shattered by the robbers' bullets and she slumped and died right in the bus while the robbers sped off in their motor bikes. Other occupants later scampered out of the vehicle and reported the incident to the husband of the deceased woman who rushed to the scene and took his wife's body to a nearby hospital.

At the Fintinger junction also, three persons were shot and wounded by the bandits' reckless use of fire arms. They reportedly invaded Alakija



Mr. Sunday Ehindero, Police IGP



Mr. Bashiru Azeez, Lagos Commissioner of Police

area where they raided other social joints also dispossessing them of their belongings, especially GSM handsets.

However, police from the Satellite Division later raced to the scenes and assessed the extent of havoc caused by the robbers who had made good their escape long even before the arrival of the anti-robbery team. The Divisional Police

Officer, Chief Superintendent Ogbogbo told City Scope that the gang would soon be

**"Curiously, the armed gang operate unperturbed fueling speculations that the police have gone to bed leaving residents at the mercy of these hoodlums"**

## Pastor's wife in Police net over robbery

By Evelyn Usman

**B**arely had Mrs Béatrice Ejiogbam, leader of a religion known as Igbe amongst the riverine dwellers, finished dancing before her god, when some stern-looking men barged into her compound located at number 48, Peace estate, Iba area of Lagos State to effect her arrest.

The men who were later discovered to be operatives from the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti Yaba, demanded to see the owner of the compound who, co-incidentally happened to be Mrs Ejiogbam who was standing in front of her room exchanging exchanging pleasantries with other Igbe worshippers. She was immediately whisked away after identifying herself as the landlady, to the dreaded Panti, following allegations of her being the amour bearer of a notorious robbery gang.

Other Igbe worshippers watched helplessly as their leader was taken away, without any of them daring to ask why.

Cityscope learnt that operatives from the outfit who acted on a tip-off, had earlier visited the building where a search was carried on all the rooms at the end of which some dangerous weapons including guns, said to have been concealed in three polythene bags were discovered in one of the rooms.

Sources at the SCID told city scope that the building was used as a criminal hideout. Suspected leader of a notorious robbery gang said to have been terrorizing the

area and other parts of Lagos for long, was discovered to be residing in the room where the weapons were recovered.

On the day of police invasion, precisely about two weeks ago, the leader of the gang identified simply as Elvis and other members of his gang were not at home. As the search was going on, two girls living in the compound were overheard alerting him on a mobile phone of the presence of the Police. The two girls who were later identified as sisters were taken along with the landlady to the SCID but were later released on bail.

Preliminary investigation carried out by the operatives further revealed that the 45-year-old Isoko, Delta State born landlady, allegedly helped in facilitating the burial of some members of the gang who were killed during a cross-fire with the police last year, by providing a space around her area.

In this interview with City Scope, the Igbe leader who, ironically, is the wife of a pastor of a very popular church in Lagos, revealed how she paid the sum of N10,000 to the landlord association in her area to secure a place for the burial of her tenant's friend whom she denied ever knowing was a robber.

**What is your name?**

My name is Mrs Beartrice Ejiogba. I am from In area of Isoko in Delta State. I am an Igbe woman. Igbe is a water spirit and I have been worshipping it for a very long time.

**Why are you here?**

I am a landlady and rented a room to one Elvis who, unknown to me at first, was a robber. I was arrested and

brought here because they said Elvis is a robber. His room was searched by some policemen and they found some guns. I was arrested because they said I keep the weapons for Elvis and that I knew he was robber and harbored him. I am not related to Elvis and never knew him until an agent brought him to me in November 2005, that he wanted to rent one of my rooms and I agreed.

**Was Elvis keeping late nights?**

Yes he was. But he usually said it was the nature of his job and I could not interfere because I saw it as no business of mine and he was not giving me problem either.

**You mean you could not detect his moves during the 1-year-5-months he's been living with you?**

Sister, I no go tell you lie, I later discovered that he was an armed robber last year November. When I knew, I reported to the landlord association in my area and they said they would see what they would do about it.

**How did you find out?**

At first some people told me and I later started seeing different people in his house. Some time last year, he brought a dead person whom he claimed was a cousin of his and said he needed to bury him that I should help him. Then I never knew he was a robber because he brought some people he said were the deceased, parents and relatives. So I approached the landlord association and one baba Gbeganlori who is a herbalist in our area, to see if they could provide a space to bury the deceased. They provided a space for Elvis in the bush where the person

tracked down saying, "the only problem we have is that we did not get information about their activities on time. And again, there was this problem of patrol vehicles. But with the new van given to us by the state government, we are, at least, in a better position to give them the fight of their lives."

Earlier on Sunday, the same gang who sources said normally come from the waterside end of Marwa road had raided several closes in satellite town, dispossessing residents of the valuables including cash. Some of the residents who spoke on condition of anonymity described the invasion as

"regular" According to them, "we no longer have peace here and nobody is sure of what happens the next minute. But one thing that is appalling is that these boys operate as if they are already aware that the police will not come even when they are being informed of their activities."

So, whenever you go out and come back safely, you thank your God for that day. Sometimes, they wait for you as early as 6.30pm when, may be, you are hurrying to your work place and the rest is history. But their regular hour is between 8.00pm and 9.00pm and they normally operate unchallenged".

## Lagos City crime

By Femi Adisa

free movement of traffic for a while on the ever-busy bridge

Gundul  
Police / Gang  
Eko bridge  
25 Ap

anything happened in our place, it is the landlord association that we usually inform first. If I had known it would lead to this I would have informed the police. I swear sister, I am not a thief and the guns were not found in my room. Oh God, if only they could catch Elvis now, at least he would exonerate me from all this.

**Are you married?**

Yes  
**Is your husband aware you are here?**

My husband is aware. But he has not come to see me yet because we don't live together. I am his second wife and we have six children together. He is a pastor in one of the Pentecostal churches in Agbara. He only sent some of his church members to come and see me but they didn't see my Investigative Police Officer (IPO) when they came. My relatives have not been here either, perhaps they are afraid they could be arrested as well. Ah! See the shame this boy has brought to me now. Anyway, this has taught me a lesson to go beyond seeing my tenant personally before taking them in. If by the grace of God I come out of this, I will not just ask of where any intending tenant works but would go as far as investigating if indeed he or she works where they claim", she said, dabbing the tears that ran freely down her cheeks with the loose end of her wrapper.

**YABA:**

Two Beninize Nationals who specialize in obtaining money under false pretense by issuing dud cheque were last Tuesday, arrested by detectives from the State Criminal Investigations Department (SCID) Panti, Yaba. The duo who were simply identified as Maron Oliver Charles and Maccelin Anani Agbohohu were said to have been collecting money under false pretense from one Peter Ukaegbu who was said to be a business man. The suspects were reportedly arrested when they had gone to collect money from their victim.

Police Public Relations Officer, Olubode Ojajuni (SP) who confirmed the arrest of the two foreign nationals said "on April 17, 2007, detectives from State CID Panti Yaba arrested the duo of Maron Oliver Charles and Maccelin Anani Agbohohu both Beninize Nationals for conspiracy and issuance of dud cheque/obtaining money under false pretense from one Peter Ukaegbu. The case is under investigation."

id and  
city..  
were  
id and  
n back  
hat the  
into a

aid the  
people  
30pm  
em of  
re the  
m. On  
armed  
ect fire  
Police  
eleased  
ds them  
ing two  
ile four  
to the  
of the

If the subject was involved then the