

# **Robbers attack bullion van, kill 2 cops**

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**L**AGOS — TWO Police officers were shot dead while several others sustained serious injuries yesterday when a gang of armed robbers ambushed a Police bullion van at Pako bus stop in Isolo, Lagos and attacked

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it and its occupants. The incident which sent residents of the area and environs scampering for safety took place around mid-day when many people were returning from church.

The robbers who were armed with sophisticated weapons intercepted the police bullion van at the bus stop while it was going round to collect cash from a popular eatery (name withheld) at Iso-lo. It was learnt that the robbers trailed the bullion van with number plate PF 2439 SPY in a commercial bus which was driven by a female member of the gang.

Eyewitnesses said as soon as the bullion van got to the bus stop, the robbers

blocked its way and started releasing volleys of bullets into the van. The SPY police constable who was driving the van and an Inspector of Police attached to Man Centre Police Division in Ikeja who was in the escort team died on the spot.

*Vanguard* gathered that the robbers then proceeded to riddle the bullion van with bullets after which they carted away an unspecified sum of money from the van. They later released bullet shots indiscriminately in all directions before fleeing from the scene.

Eyewitness said several people were hit by the bullets and there was a stampede as people coming back from various churches ran in different directions. Police source said a team of police anti-robbery

squad that arrived the scene a few minutes later pursued the fleeing robbers towards Apapa-Oshodi Expressway but could not say whether any arrest was made.

When *Vanguard* visited Okota Divisional Police headquarters around 4.30 p.m., bodies of the slain police officers were seen lying beside the bullion van which was riddled with bullets and another Mitsubishi bus with number plate LK 361 KJA. Police sources at the station said efforts made to deposit the bodies at the General Hospital in Ikeja failed because authorities of the hospital demanded payment of N50,000 for each corpse before they would be kept in the mortuary.