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Lorry crushes 25, robbers kill 4 policemen

Written by Dayo Johnson & Ola Ajayi
Friday, 28 November 2008

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AKURE — TWENTY-FIVE people died in a road accident in Ikare, Akoko North-East Council of Ondo State, yesterday as a trailer loaded with rice ran into a market and crushed the victims, even as dare-devil armed robbers snuffed life out of six people including four policemen when they attacked two commercial banks in the ancient city of Ibadan.

The people who died in Ikare were mostly market women as the trailer was said to have run through the market before it collided with an electricity pole with its front compartment bursting into flames. Many people were also rushed to the hospitals.

An eye-witness said five motorcycles also caught fire as the trailer, a DAF 911, rammed into them by the side of the road, killing two of the riders instantly.

According to the witness, the driver of the truck, marked Ondo: XB 346AKK, with the inscription "Allah Ya Kiyaye" lost control and headed straight into the Oja Oba market.

Vanguard learnt that the driver was descending a hill near the Olukare of Ikare's palace before the mishap. It was gathered that the driver of the trailer fled immediately the accident occurred as sympathisers attempted to set him on fire.

The bags of rice the trailer was transporting were quickly evacuated to the police station in the town. At press time yesterday, the trailer was still at the scene of the crash. Bodies of the deceased have been deposited at the Ikare General Hospital.

Speaking with newsmen, the Federal Roads Safety Commission spokesman, Olugbenga Muhammed, confirmed the crash but was not categorical about the number of the casualties. Speaking with newsmen, the spokesman of the state Police Command, Mr. Aremu Adeniran, however said only nine persons died in the auto crash while four were seriously injured.

Robbers kill six in Ibadan

Meanwhile, six people — four policemen and two students— were killed yesterday in Ibadan in a robbery attack.

Over 20 other people were said to have been wounded when the hoodlums shot indiscriminately while several other passers-by were reportedly shot during a shoot-out between the police and the bandits. The wounded were said to have been rushed to the casualty section of the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan.

The robbers who reportedly arrived the bank in buses were said to have successfully robbed a bank where an undisclosed amount of money was carted away. But they could not force their way into the vault of the second bank which is located at Iwo Road.

Confirming the death toll, Mr. Abayomi Adeniji, Deputy Public Relations Officer, told newsmen on phone that "three of the policemen that were killed had mounted a road block at Idi Ape area to prevent the escape of the robbers, while the other one was felled at Bodija Oju Irin. However, one of the robbers was killed while one was arrested. The one killed had an AK47 rifle with him and amulets around his waist."

He said eight of the rampaging robbers entered one of the banks while the others were outside with dangerous weapons. At press time, the police hinted that their men were still on the trail of the armed bandits.

The robbery compelled banks, eateries, shops, supermarkets and other business centres on Secretariat-Bodija-UI road to close shop.

Also confirming the casualty figure, the Public Relations Officer of the UCH, Mr. Kunle Atinwore, said: "Over 20 casualties have been brought to the hospital. Six were dead, while over 20 others were injured. Three of the corpses were policemen."

All outlets to the city were blocked by the policemen while all vehicles were being searched thoroughly.

Governor Adebayo Alao-Akala on arrival from Angola where he travelled with the Vice

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President Goodluck was said to have visited the State Police Command, Eleyele and vowed that his administration would not fold its arms and watch hoodlums take over the state.

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1

Pondering

Written by [Emmanuel O](#), on 28-11-2008 01:58 , IP: 212.100.69.11

I wonder what hope there is for our banks? If the banks are scarcely safe, ow much more the masses? I think this situation needs urgent and permanent addressing before it gets out of hand.

2

Shame on Alao-Akala

Written by [Mike Ade](#), on 28-11-2008 02:21 , IP: 198.22.21.50

The incident attests to the porous security lapses in Nigeria. Ironically, the Nigerian Council of State recently issued a statement stating that crime rates had considerably reduced in Nigeria. How do we reconcile the Ibadan and other robbery incidents nationwide to the reckless statement credited to the theiving Governors? Coincidentally, Alao-Akala was just returning from his frequent globe-trotting while the innocent masses were held hostage by these criminals. He had allegedly spent several millions of naira on daughter's graduation/wedding while the helpless State Police command remains unarmed to combat criminals. One would have expected Oyo State to be the safest State in Nigeria going by the claim that Alao-Akala is a retired Police Officer. Conversely, he engages himself in foreign travels and extravagant spendings at the expense of the suffering masses. The incidents of Bank robberies in Ibadan is fast getting out of hand as the robbers usually have field days operating. Among other deadly robberies recently reported in Ibadan, several Policemen have been killed without any compensations announced by the State of Federal Governmnet as a way of encouraging other officers. Besides, the weapons carried by these criminals are said to be well sophisticated and powerful than the few ones possessed by the Policemen. President "Go Slow" or Vice President "Go Slow" must henceforth stop inviting Alao-Akala to accompany them on foreign trips. Some of the Nigerian Governors are reputable enough to be invited to join Federal Government entourage on official trips. Besides the fact that this is the only way to check his penchant for making foreign trips, the whole world now realize that his state is a den of armed robbers and is therefore one of the most dangerous/unsafe states to live Nigeria. While I sympathize with the families of the slain Policemen and other innocent citizens, I pray that the souls of the departed officers and citizens rest in peace and wishing all of the wounded officers/citizens speedy recovery.

3

get rich quick syndrome

Written by [uche john](#), on 28-11-2008 03:52 , IP: 41.205.166.161

it is Quite unfortunate the manner innocent nigerians lose their lives to armed robbers.Until the society stops adoring the rich irrespective of the source of their wealth this menace will not stop.may the soul of departed rest in perfect peace.

4

What is becoming of Ibadan?

Written by [Amiel A.](#), on 28-11-2008 09:28 , IP: 216.147.157.52

The ancient city of Ibadan has witnessed uncountable numbers of armed robbery attacks for couple of years running.

Is there no way to abate or eradicate this evil. The most worrisome aspect of this robbery is

that bank is always involved, innocent people are felled.

Where are the real police and other security agents in Ibadan? What are the characters of the employees in banks in Ibadan, is there collusion between some of the bank's workers and the robbers? Are these robbers trained militia group? Imagine where four policemen were felled and one robber was killed in shoot-out.

We hope that those who are suppose to protect us are not the ones killing us.

Get money quick and be rich at all costs, idolizing the rich in our society must be put away from our nation to give us respite from these evils.

5

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6

Written by [CHUKWU FLORENCE NGOZI](#), on 28-11-2008 10:08 , IP: 41.204.224.41

WELL ITS QUITE A SYMPATHETIC STORY. THE PPLE OF IKARE SHOULD PLS ACCEPT MY SMPATHY. ITS A GREAT LOSS.THIS BRING TO OUR NOTICE THAT THE TRAILER DRIVERS ARE ALWAYS RECKLESS. REASONS, BECAUSE MOST OF THEM TAKE DRUGS BEFORE THEY DRIVE, ITS ON FAIR ,THEY SHOULD BE WARN. AND FOR THE ROBERRY ISSUE, THE POLICE AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ROBERRY IN OUR SOCIETY. WHY IS IT NOW THAT THE ROBBERY HAS OCCURED THAT THEY NOW MOUNTED ROAD BLOCK IN ALL OUTLETS OF THE CITY. I BELIEVE THAT BEFORE THE THOSE ROBBERS GOT TO THAT BANK THEY MUST HAVE PASSED THROUGH ONE OR TWO CHECK POINT, BUT THEY WERE NOT CHECKED, WHY ,BEACUASE THEY GAVE OUR POLICE #20 AND THEY PASSED. THE POLICE SHOULD BE ASKED WHY THEY PREFER TO TRADE THE LIFE OF THEIR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS FOR JUST #20. ALL VEHICLES SHOULD BE CHECKED PROPERLY BEFORE PASSING A CHECK POINT, BUT THE ONLY TIME POLICE OR MOPO WILL CHECK A CAR IN A CHECK POINT IS ONLY WHEN THE DRIVE REFUSE TO GIVE THEM THAT MONEY.BUT IF YOU GIVE THEM #20 NAIRA U CAN PASS NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE CARRYING.POLICE SHOULD BE CAUTIONED AGAINST THAT #20. AS FOR GOVERNOR ADEBAYO THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE SURE THAT ROBBERS DONT TAKE OVER UR STATE IS TO TALK TO UR POLICEMEN, HOLD SERMINAR WITH THEM AND CAUTION THEM TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY VEHICLE THAT GO THROUGH A CHECK POINT SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY SERCHED,ESPECIALLY THIS CHRISTMAS PERIOD. AND AS FOR THE GOVERNMENT,PLS YOU PPLE IN POWER SHOULD GIVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO OUR YOUTHS.AN IDLE YOUTH WITHOUT GOD WILL ALWAYS BE A ROBBER. GOVERMENT PLS GIVE US JOB. AND AS FOR THE ROBBER THAT WAS ARRESETED SHOULD BE COMPELLED TO POINT OUT THE REST AND JUSTICE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT ON THEM, CAUSE THEY HAVE CAUSED MANY FAMILY TEARS THIS EMBER PERIOD. THAT IS MY COMMENTS.MY NUMBER IS 08065931206. THANKS.

7

Lorry and Robbers

Written by [John](#), on 28-11-2008 10:36 , IP: 92.230.130.133

Nigeria, land of devil. Land where her people sleep at night with their one eye open, crime lawlessness etc. are the talk of the day world wide. Shame!

8

Mrs

Written by [Hety Erabhahiemien](#), on 28-11-2008 10:50 , IP: 80.255.63.62

This heartless people of under world are every where again robbing people of what they have been working for since January. They will be caught and brought to book while justice will take its course

9

why only in ibadan..?

Written by [OLadele \(London\)](#), on 28-11-2008 11:31 , IP: 92.2.84.124

It is a pity that we don't have government that look for the safety of his people at mind.
The Federal govt in conjunction with the state gov can fight the crime by equipping the police or set out a special squad to fight the robber in the country specially in Ibadan metropolitan..e.g Mokola(Ajibade)Apata and iwo road.
It is painfull that the little people have to survive in their business have been stolen by armrobber..Please the state gov to help the people of oy state from the epidemic of killer.
Thanks
Oladele(London)

10

The solution

Written by [Ese.E.](#), on 28-11-2008 11:58 , IP: 134.146.0.6

It's really pahetic to see these things happening in our society unabated. A lot of youngsters in the society have grown up without love, uncared for, so they have no human feelings when they start planning and executing evil. Nipping this means we have to moderate child birth because every dick and harry produce babies in the society uncared for and what do they turn out to be, "miscreants". The family value is not they for them to follow. There are those who produce quite some number that cannot be cared for and what do you find? in an attempt to make ends meet in a society where wealth is so much worshipped, they do anything at any cost to survive. Jobs are no longer there to keep them busy because using instances of the militants cum criminals, companies have shut down or down sized. Jobs are not really the problem because I for one as a graduate has been unemployed for years but didn't go into stealing and so are many others out there doing one legitimate business or the other in simple humility to excel one day. So the family value system has a key role to play here where awareness to produce that which you can take of and nuture properly with love to produce loving and hard working and contented children in the society. Birth control is a penacea for these problems in our society. I was returning from work one day I came across a hagarad looking fellow lurking around a bus stop, I just knew that I had to make the next move before I became a victim. Its really appalling

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