

Crime Alert

Gun battle in Lagos

••As fleeing robbers kill five, abduct Police Corporal

BY ALBERT AKPOR

A GANG of dare-devil armed robbers yesterday in Lagos threw caution to the wind, killed four persons and abducted a yet-to-be identified Police Corporal. The incident happened atop Oshodi Bridge (Oshodi oke) and time was about 7.15am. The cause of the early morning shooting incident at the ever busy and densely populated Oshodi is still sketchy as at the time of filling this report but a source was quoted as saying that the bandits were tailing an unnamed Lagos business man said to be carrying huge sums of money in a private car.

According to sources, while the armed men were stalking the man, they reportedly sighted a police patrol van ferociously approaching and they erroneously concluded that the team of policemen in the vehicle were after them.

Reports said the hoodlums promptly came out of their vehicle, opened fire on the van, killing three occupants. Not minding that there might be another police van approaching, the notorious bandits reportedly went to where the police van was parked, and abducted a Police Corporal that was shot and injured in the car. Meanwhile, some of the bandits held down the businessman, forced open his vehicle with bullet shots and evacuated as much money as they could into their get away van.

Official engagement

They reportedly released several bullets indiscriminately and shot their way to escape.

Crime Alert was further told that a yet-to-be identified passer-by was also hit by the robber's reckless use of fire power and he died on the spot.

When contacted, the State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Samuel Jinadu said he was yet to be briefed over the incident adding that he had been in another official engagement in the state. Jinadu however assured that the fleeing bandits would soon be rounded up.

In a similar development, a gang of armed men suspected to be armed robbers early morning yesterday shot dead a driver working with one of the new generation banks in his car at Ilupeju area of Iyana, Oworonshoki in Lagos State. The deceased who was identified through his official iden-

tity card was reportedly shot dead around 6.30am while going to work. Eyewitnesses

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said two women who were with the deceased in the Toyota Camry car with registration number LE NR 307 KJA at the time of the attack were not hurt. When Crime alert approached the women for de-

tails, they were in a state of shock and could not give details of the attack.

However, some of the eye-witnesses said the deceased was shot several times in the chest leaving him a pool of his blood. The identity card found on him showed that he lives at number 8, Abosede Street, Giwa/Okero, Ogun State but some witnesses familiar with the deceased later said he no longer lives there and had packed to another house. They also revealed that he was a former mechanic before he decided to seek employment in the bank.

As at the time of going to press, it was not possible to ascertain whether the gang of armed bandits that escaped from Oshodi were the same that operated at Oworonshoki but Police sources said Lagos State Police boss, Alkali Yakubu has directed men of the special anti-robbery squad, SARS, at the headquarters in



CP, Lagos State, Yakubu Alkali ... we must fish out the bandits

Ikeja to swing into action and fish out the bandits that perpetrated the act without delay. He also reportedly assured Lagosians that there was no

cause for alarm as he stated that the Police in the state are poised for action and battle-ready to deal ruthlessly with criminal elements in the society.

Blood bath in Ogun State

...as road transport workers clash

BY IFEANYI OKOLIE AND NNENNA EZEAH

OVER 20 persons lost their lives yesterday, at Sango-Ota area of Ogun State, when warring factions of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW, in the State, engaged themselves in a vicious fight for supremacy, leaving several people with severe injuries.

The bloody clash which started around 4 am Tuesday, paralyzed commercial activities and vehicular movement, as traders at the ever busy Sango-Ota area, were forced to stay away from their shops as warring hoodlums exchanged gun fires at will, for hours.

Crime Alert also gathered that the blood-bath may have been as a result of the inability of the Ogun State branch of the NURTW to conduct fresh election into executive positions of the union upon the expiration of the tenure of the present executive under the leadership of Chief Tajudeen Ibikunle (a.k.a Baruwa).

This development, Crime Alert gathered, had resulted in a litigation where some aggrieved members who felt cheated approached the state High court in Abeokuta and Justice Peter Onamade later ruled that the union should proceed with the conduct of the election earlier aborted.

Speaking with Crime Alert on the crisis, a member of the Care-taker Committee set up to conduct the election, Alhaji Yusuph Bamgbola alleged that the aggrieved members under the leadership of one Akeem Balogun (Jango) were responsible for the clash.



CP Ogun State, Nkemdeme ... we are equal to the task

Alhaji Bamgbola also told Crime Alert that his committee had previously got wind of the violence and petitioned the state government, adding that nothing was done till it happened today. "What I can say is that since last week, we got wind of the fact that some people were planning to cause chaos and commotion in Ogun State and I immediately wrote to the state governor to draw his attention to the illegal activities of some hoodlums who are parading themselves as members of National Union, using the name of some government functionaries, that they have given them the support and directives to go and invade motor parks". Bamgbola however, lamented that if the government had given his petition the needed attention, the violence wouldn't have occurred. "If the security agencies have been given the power - you know all

these security agencies have to get orders from the governor - so if the governor has given them the necessary instruction, this thing should not have happened in Ogun State".

As at the time Crime Alert visited the scene of the clash, twelve mutilated dead bodies were counted between under the bridge and the main Sango garage. An eye witness also told our correspondent that those who sustained serious injuries and other dead bodies have been evacuated by the warring factions.

As at the time of filling this report however, men of the Nigerian Police force has been able to restore normalcy to the area as

fierce-looking men of the anti-riot police department had been drafted to the scene.

When contacted, the state police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Muyiwa Adejobi confirmed the violent clash but described it as minor. The PPRO also stated that he could not give the accurate figure of the casualties until the report of the Divisional police Officer (DPO) in the area which is to be backed up by a doctor's report, certifying the number of the dead was received by the command.

"I don't know the number of casualties. For now I don't have the exact number. Nobody can say somebody is dead; a medical doctor has to certify. The CP has not given us the exact figure. We have deployed armored personnel carrier. Everybody should go about his lawful business".