

Robbers, kidnappers on the rampage in Delta

- **Two policemen, woman killed**
- **Oru, PDP vice-chairman shot**
- **Kidnap attempt on Oru, Elumelu foiled**
- **Bandits attack Navy Commander**
- **Three-year-old child vanishes**
- **We're hunting for the perpetrators — CP**

BY EMMA AMAIZE,
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ARUBI & FESTUS AHON

UGHELLI — IT was a gruesome weekend in Delta State as suspected kidnappers and bandits shot dead three persons, two police officers and a woman, wounded a police and naval officers and seized a Navy Commander.

Two chieftains of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, national vice chair, South-South, Dr. Steve Oru and member, House of Representatives, Hon. Ndudi Elumelu, reportedly ambushed by kidnappers, miraculously escaped being kidnapped.

However, Oru, who was shot by the hostage-takers, is currently hospitalised.

Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan of Delta State was said to have intervened and ordered the security agencies to fish the criminals. He has reviewed the security measures put in place by government and is reportedly coming up with a new strategy in the next few weeks to keep his security and peace agenda aflame.

The State Police Commissioner, Mr. Ikechukwu Aduba, confirmed the attacks in a telephone interview with *Vanguard*, saying the police have launched a manhunt for the criminals.

He did not give details, but said: "It was unfortunate, the police, both junior and senior officers, are looking for them. You know, the governor of the state, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, gave us more vehicles and we have a special security patrol team working round the clock. We will get them."

Kidnappers bundle Navy Commander

However, *Vanguard* was informed that Navy Commander I. Mohammed, who is based in Lagos, was attacked between Ughelli and Patani on his way from Warri to Port-Harcourt, along the East-West Road by a seven-man robbery gang.

A source said Navy Commander Mohammed tried to make a nippy u-turn when he sighted the heavily armed bandits, operating near Oru

Filling Station at about 3.00 p.m. Saturday, but the hoodlums, who had positioned themselves strategically, trapped him and opened gunfire on his vehicle.

It was learnt that the N5 million cash which was in the possession of the Navy Commander and GSM phones were stolen by the bandits.

Reports said his car, riddled with bullets, was abandoned by the bandits, who bundled him into an SUV they used for the operation and turned in the direction of Warri, but apparently unsatisfied with their loot, they diverted to Agbarho.

His orderly was allegedly shot on the chest region and was said to be in critical state. His actual condition could not be determined at press time.

PDP vice chair shot, orderly killed

The bandits, *Vanguard* gathered, laid siege to unsuspecting travellers between Orhokpokpor-Agbarho and Uwiamughe-Agbarho on the East-West road at about 2.00 pm.

According to a dependable source, the armed robbers attacked vehicles from both ends of the road, dispossessing their victims of their valuables.

The source, who pleaded anonymity, said an unidentified woman was also shot dead by the dare devil robbers, as she attempted to escape into the bush, adding that the police orderly of Dr. Steve Oru, simply identified as Ofor was also killed when he attempted to engage the bandits in a shootout.

Speaking further, the source said: "Dr. Steve Oru was shot on his back as he was trying to run into the bush. Many others also sustained bullet injuries as the armed robbers shot sporadically."

"As I speak with you, Governor Uduaghan is very concerned about the health condition of Oru and has directed that he be transferred to a more competent hospital (name withheld) for proper medical attention."

Bandits lay siege to Elumelu

Similarly, the police aide to Hon

Ndudi Elumelu was also killed between Orhia-Abraka and Eku, by suspected armed bandits who also laid siege to the Eku/Abraka road at about 1.00 pm on Saturday.

A reliable source said suspected robbers, who opened fire, attacked the convoy of Elumelu but the lawmaker narrowly escaped death.

Police orderlies killed

Commissioner Aduba told *Vanguard* that the suspected kidnappers had wanted to kidnap Oru and Elumelu, but the plot failed, as their aides fought gallantly but were killed in the ensuing battle.

He confirmed that a policeman lost his life in the attack on Elumelu's convoy, while in the Oru incident, a policeman was killed and another injured.

Police finger Kelvin, most wanted kidnap suspect

He fingered a notorious kidnap suspect, Kelvin, who had been declared wanted by the police as being responsible for the spate of kidnap and robbery attacks in the state.

The Commissioner said some people in Kokori appeared to be shielding Kelvin from the police, as they were not giving the police useful information on his activities and whereabouts.

Aduba said the police in the state would give out N2.5 million soon to informants at Abraka, Warri, Asaba and other parts of the state, who gave the information that led to the bursting of some kidnap and armed robbery gangs and commended Gov. Uduaghan for the assistance.

Increased patrol

Vanguard observed, yesterday (Sunday) that the special security patrol introduced this year by the state government had intensified security checks in the state.

A combined team of security personnel has taken over the Eku/Abraka road with a view to tracking down the suspected hoodlums.

At Sapele end of the Warri-

Benin road, yesterday, a heavy presence of the special security patrol team was seen by *Vanguard*, while the Delta segment of the road and Warri-Eku road have been under concentrated patrol by soldiers, drawn mainly from the 3 Battalion, Effurun, Delta State, headed by Lt Col Ifeanyi Otu.

Three-year-old pupil abducted

Meanwhile, a pupil, Akachukwu Abatam, was allegedly abducted, Saturday, at about 2.00 p.m. by unknown persons. He was said to be returning from his school, Green Height International School.

PPRO, Mr. Ajieh, who confirmed the incident, said Akachukwu's teacher was being quizzed over the matter.

Corps member killed

A National Youth Service Corps, NYSC, member, identified as Akrigbe, was also shot dead on Saturday by suspected robbers, along Bomadi road in the state.

The incident occurred at about 11.00 am around Ode Bridge. The corps member was travelling in an 18-seater Delta mass transit bus heading to Bomadi when tragedy struck.

In another robbery incident at Oleh on Saturday, robbers raided a boutique at Old Emede Road, but the police mobilized and in a gun battle, one of the bandits was killed, while others fled.

Ajieh told *Vanguard* that on a closer look, the police found out that the deceased robber "was a wanted person who snatched a Toyota Camry from a woman at Campus gate sometime in October 2012."

His words: "The police are combing the area for possible arrest of the fleeing gang members."

Police officer kills colleague

BY DAYO JOHNSON

AKURE — AN Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Kazeem Shehu, attached to the Ajagba Divisional Police Station in Ajagba town, Irele Local Government Area of Ondo State has shot dead his close friend also a policeman, Inspector Adelakun Lawal, over an argument at a beer parlour.

Vanguard gathered that the unfortunate incident occurred, weekend, in Ondo town area of Ondo State.

The shot police officer was attached to Yaba Divisional Police Station before he met

his untimely death in the hands of his colleague.

The state Police Command image-maker Wole Ogodo confirmed the killing of the



ASP Kazeem Shehu, the suspected killer.



Some suspected prostitutes arrested

Mother of 4 arrested

As Police foil bank robbery

BY EVELYN USMAN &
BOSE ADELAJA

LAGOS — A MOTHER of four has been arrested by the Police in Lagos for allegedly killing her husband during a brawl over food, weekend, in Ikorodu area of Lagos.

Vanguard gathered that the suspect, Mrs Folake Adekoya-Ojo, was arrested following reports by her late husband's relative, one Olaoye, who suspected she had a hand in their brother's death, following which she was invited by policemen at Shagamu Road Division.

The widow was said to have told policemen that her 37-year-old husband committed suicide by hanging himself on the ceiling fan, last Friday, while her in-laws insisted that their late brother was hacked to death.

Consequently, policemen from the division were deployed by the Divisional Police Officer to inspect the late Emmanuel's

News



Lagos recently: "Rapport between us and policemen is very cordial."

sted for allegedly killing hubby bbery in Lagos

corpse where it was discovered to have a deep cut in the head.

On further interrogation, the widow reportedly admitted to have hit her husband with a stone during a scuffle.

The widow explained that her husband came home at about 11 p.m. that fateful night demanding for food. She said she served him *amala* and okro soup, only for him to complain that it was not properly served. Rather than doing his bid, the widow reportedly ate the meal, an action she said infuriated her husband. This, as gathered, generated into a fight during which she claimed she hit him with a stone on the head in defence.

Mr Emmanuel, reportedly gave up the ghost at about 2.30 a.m.

Police foil bank robbery

Meantime, armed bandits numbering over 10, weekend, engaged policemen from the Shagamu road division in a gun battle that lasted over 30 minutes

during an attempt to rob a second generation bank at the Odogunyan branch.

The gunmen, as gathered, stormed the bank at about 3 a.m. in two vehicles which they parked poles away from their target.

They were said to have gained entry into the bank's premises and succeeded in breaking the door leading to the three Automated Teller Machines, ATMs.

Just then, police sources at the Lagos State Police Command said operatives from the Shagamu road, who got wind of the robbers presence, stormed the bank in two Armoured Personnel Carriers and 20 patrol vehicles.

On sighting the policemen, led by the Divisional Police Officer, Mr Bernard Odiaghonya, a Superintendent of Police (SP), the robbers said to have been armed with sophisticated weapons, opened fire on them. But they were reportedly overwhelmed by the number of policemen.

e at drinking joint

deceased by his colleague.

Ogodo who said the suspect was in detention, pointed out that investigation into incident was ongoing. He said the suspect would face the full wrath of the law after investigation into the incident.

Eyewitness account said the two friends went to a relaxation centre at Ejankole Street in Okerowo area in Ondo town at about 5 pm for a drink. It was later learnt that an argument ensued between them and this snowballed into a hot argument and altercation while all efforts by others at the centre to call them to order was rebuffed.

The suspect, it was learnt,

after the hot argument reportedly drew out a pistol which was hidden in his pocket and shot his friend at a close range.

The sound of the gunshot attracted others in the relaxation centre who rushed the victim to the state Specialist Hospital in Ondo town.

Sensing the gravity of what he has done, the suspect in an attempt to flee from the area was apprehended by those present at the relaxation joint.

Meanwhile, the corpse of the slain policeman has been deposited at the morgue of the Ondo State Specialist Hospital.