



Police, govt mum over deteriorating security situation in Edo

●Edo police kill one, arrest 3 for robbery

By Ozioruva Aliu & Gabriel Enoghase

BENIN CITY —THE police in Edo State and the state government seemed to be at cross roads checking the deteriorating security situation in the state with wanton killings occasioned by armed robbery, cult clashes and kidnappings.

Yesterday, the leader of a four-man armed robbery gang was shot dead while three men were arrested in Ubiaja, Esan South East Local Government Area of the state.

Vanguard gathered that the suspected armed robbers had in the early hours stormed Ogbeide Medical Centre in Ubiaja where they robbed the hospital staff and relations of patients.

One person was reportedly shot dead recently near the Egor Local Government Area secretariat in Uselu while a PoS operator on Godwin Abbe Road off Sapele Road, Benin City, was killed on Friday after she was robbed by gunmen.

On the same day, three persons including a lady were shot dead in New Benin area.

Efforts to reach police officials, yesterday, were unsuccessful. The state Commissioner of Police, Johnson Kokumo, did not pick repeated calls put across to him, it was the same situation when the Police Public Relations, Chidi Nwabuzor, was called.

On the part of Edo State government, there is no state executive in place as Governor Godwin Obaseki has said all appointments, apart from that of the Secretary to State Government, would wait till February next year.

A senior civil servant when contacted, yesterday, declined comments, saying: "I am not in the position to speak because I am a civil servant, but I don't know why the governor is sleeping on the security situation in the state. We are all worried but I believe with his style, he would definitely

be planning something."

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On yesterday's robbery in Ubiaja, it was gathered that a distress call was sent to security agents and members of the Ubiaja vigilante group in the town while the operation was ongoing.

An eyewitness said the security agencies immediately stormed the

medical centre and met the hoodlums in operation, "On sighting the security personnel, they opened fire on them and during gun duel between them, one of the armed robbers identified as Osagie, who wore a female wig, was shot dead while three of his colleagues were arrested."

Men of the Ubiaja Police Division took custody of the arrested suspects while the body of the deceased suspect was deposited in the mortuary.

Items recovered from them

include one locally made cut to size single barrel gun, live and expended cartridges and mobile phones.

It was also gathered that one of the arrested suspects is an ex-convict, who was released from the prison a few months ago after he completed his jail term.

The three suspects will be transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department for further investigation.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Johnson Kokumo, was said to have sent a personal commendation message to the vigilantes for a job well done.

2 killed in Ogun, Anambra auto crashes

By Bose Adelaja & Chimaobi Nwaiwu

A passenger reportedly lost his life in multiple accidents, yesterday, when a Volvo truck with number plate APP 595 XW, driving against traffic rammed into another truck and a private car, in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State, just as a driver lost his life in Onitsha, Anambra State while trying to save the lives of some touts who drove dangerously to extort money from him.

Other vehicles involved in the Ijebu-Ode accident were a diesel-laden tanker with number plate LNU 392 ZU and Toyota car with number plate EKY 471 BR.

The incident reportedly occurred at about 7.40 am few metres from Mobalufon Expressway, outbound Ijebu-Ode.

It was gathered that of the five occupants involved in the accident, only one fatality was recorded due to the prompt arrival of emergency responders.

Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Agency, TRACE, and other relevant agencies were involved in the rescue operation.

According to eyewitnesses' account, the victim was the only occupant of the Toyota car and his body was deposited at Ijebu-Ode General Hospital morgue.

According to eyewitnesses, the Toyota vehicle was on its right lane, inbound Lagos from Benin/Ore, along the Ijebu/Ode-Benin/Ore Expressway, while the Volvo truck was on route violation (driving in



Scene of the Ogun accident.

a direction prohibited by traffic law: One Way) was outbound Lagos to Benin/Ore, on the Ijebu/Ore Benin/Ore Expressway.

However, the diesel-laden tanker behind the Toyota vehicle, which couldn't control its speed lost control and fell on its side spilling its content.

Fortunately, there was no fire outbreak.

It was gathered that the driver and a motor boy of the Volvo truck were arrested and taken to Igbeba Police Station, Ijebu-Ode while the body of the driver of the Toyota vehicle was deposited at the morgue of Ijebu-Ode General Hospital.

Confirming the incident, TRACE Public Relations Officer, Babatunde Akinbiyi, advised road users to be careful.

One dies in Onitsha Enugu expressway

Meanwhile, vehicular movement

was disrupted at the Niger Bridge Head, Onitsha, yesterday by the Nigerian Lorry Drivers Association, NILODA, in protest against the death of one of their members.

According to the National Task Force Chairman of NILODA, Mr Joseph Chukwuka, who narrated the incident and the circumstances that led to the death of the driver to newsmen, he alleged that the driver died while trying to save the lives of some touts, who drove dangerously to double-cross him and extort money from him after an earlier settlement around 2.30 am.

Visibly angry Chukwuka said: "We decided to block the road for the Anambra State government to tell us if those touts at the entry of Bridge Head, Onitsha, by Odumegwu Ojukwu Gateway, are above the law and whether their activities are not an eyesore to the state and whether they see such violent people operating at the Asaba end of the bridge."