

Why gunmen attacked Ondo police station

●Police inspector killed during attempt to kidnap expatriates

By Dayo Johnson & Shina Abubakar

AKURE—Fresh facts emerged yesterday, on why six gunmen attacked a police station in the heart of Akure, the Ondo State capital, killing a police inspector, Temenu Boluwaji.

Boluwaji was gunned down by the bandits, who stormed the Okuta Elerinla police station, at about 1 am. A reliable police source told Vanguard that the bandits came looking for arms and ammunition to steal for other planned operations.

The source said: "About six of the gunmen came to the station around 1 am when they thought the policemen on duty would be weak or probably sleeping, they scaled through the fence to overpower the officers on duty."

"They met some policemen, who were the station guards, on alert. The guards repelled the attack of the bandits who were coming to the station to steal arms and ammunition."

"One of the station guards rescued the suspects in the police custody, especially women and took them into safe custody while the others engaged the bandits."

"It was when the station guard was trying to see if there were others left that the hoodlums saw his torch light and shot directly at the light, killing the inspector. The inspector later died on his way to the state hospital."

"There was no high profile suspect in the police custody at the station. They came looking for arms for other operations. But they were repelled."

In an interview, one of the residents in the area, who spoke in confidence, said the exchange of gunshots between the bandits and policemen kept him awake throughout the night.

He said: "We were very scared, we hide inside the toilet when we started hearing the heavy gunshots. We started praying."

"What came to our mind was the ugly incident of the terrorist attack of Owo church where about 50 persons were killed inside church."

"My family members thought the end has come and we stayed inside the toilet till about 5 am when we didn't hear gunshots anymore. We later learned that it was some bandits that attacked the police station in the area."

Speaking on the attack, spokesperson for the state police command, Funmi Odunlami, confirmed the incident, saying: "On July 25, 2022 around 0100 am, hoodlums attacked Okuta Elerinla Division, in Akure."

"Policemen, who were at alert and alive to their duty repelled them accordingly and the miscreants were unable to gain entrance into the station."

"During the crossfire, one of our gallant station guards AP207538 OINSR, Temenu Boluwaji was hit by a bullet, he later died on his way to the hospital."

Odunlami added that no arrest has been made but that the attackers would soon be apprehended.

Meanwhile, the state police Commissioner, Oyeemi Oyediran, has ordered the State Criminal Investigation Department to take over the case and ensure the perpetrators are arrested.

Oyediran appealed to "the people of the state to go about their lawful duty without fear, as the days of these criminals are numbered."

Police inspector killed in attempt to kidnap expatriates

In a related development, a police inspector attached to mining expatriates in Osun State was Sunday killed during a shootout with kidnappers attempting to abduct the foreigners.

It was gathered that the kidnappers waylaid two expatriates, their driver and their three police escorts at Anuwa village, via Ifewara around 7 am and started shooting at their vehicle.



The police station attacked.

The policemen fired back and during the exchange, the inspector was killed while one of the kidnappers was also gunned down.

Sources in the community disclosed

that the shootout lasted almost 20 minutes.

Confirming the incident, Osun Police Command's Public Relations Officer, SP Yemisi Opolola, said an inspector

was killed during the attack while a sergeant in the team also killed one of the kidnappers and recovered his AK-47 rifle numbered 97698 with 16 rounds of live ammunition, while another 32 rounds were recovered from the scene.

She said: "The Divisional Police Officer later mobilised policemen and local hunters to the scene. The forest was combed and four suspects were arrested. Two Android mobile phones were recovered from the suspects."

"The AK-47 rifle belonging to the killed inspector with rounds of live ammunition was carted away by some of the kidnappers. The bodies of the kidnappers and the policemen have been deposited at the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ife for autopsy."

Gunmen attack traditionalists performing ritual on murdered prince

By Shina Abubakar

SOGBO—Gunmen, yesterday, reportedly attacked traditionalists performing ritual rites for deceased Prince Yinusa Okunloye, allegedly killed by cultists over the weekend.

Some cultists had on Saturday shot Yinusa in his chest resulting in his death after an alleged altercation between him and some members of the fraternity.

The cultists numbering about

three invaded the prince's house at midnight on Saturday, called him out and shot him dead.

It was gathered that the traditionalists were performing ritual rites for the deceased son of Olofa of Ofatedo, Oba Abdullahi Okunlola, in Egbedore Local Government Area of Osun State in the early hours of yesterday when the gunmen attacked them in the community.

A source said: "While the traditionalists were performing the rite, gunmen attacked them, fired

several shots at them. During the attack, four of the traditionalists sustained injuries but one of them is in critical condition."

A member of the community called the police, who repelled the cultists during the attack."

Spokesperson of Osun State Police Command, Yemisi Opolola, confirmed the incident, saying four of the Oro traditional cult members were injured and have been taken to hospital.

Her words: "Security has been beefed up in the community while the injured traditionalists have been taken to hospital."



DEMOLISHED: Scavengers searching the wrecks of demolished illegal shops and structures at Jabi motor park by the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), in Abuja, yesterday. Photo: NAN.

Man abducted in Gov Tambuwal's town

By Musa Sokoto

SOKOTO—A businessman, Tony Udemezue, who deals in pharmaceutical products, was yesterday kidnapped in Tambuwal, the hometown of Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal of Sokoto State.

Udemezue, who has been living and doing business in Tambuwal, is a member of the Catholic Church in the town.

The Director of Communications, Catholic Diocese of Sokoto, Rev. Father Christopher Omotosho, who made this known, said the victim is a member of the church, a parishioner in Tambuwal local government of the state.

Rev. Omotosho said: "You are to be informed that one of my parishioners (member), Mr Tony Udemezue, has just

been kidnapped in his house in Tambuwal, the home town of the Sokoto State governor."

Omotosho stated that when the abductors got to the victim's house he put calls across to the police, stressing

that police refused to show up till he was whisked away by the abductors.

When Vanguard contacted the Police Public Relations Officer, Sokoto State command, Abubakar Sanusi, he said they were holding a meeting.

Fire razes 11 shops in Ilorin market

ILORIN—An early morning fire razed 11 shops at the Alamu Market in Ilorin, Ilorin-West Local Government Area of Kwara, yesterday.

The Kwara Fire Service confirmed the incident in a statement by its Head of Media and Publicity, Mr Hassan Adekunle, in Ilorin.

Adekunle said: "A passerby on a motorcycle was the one who noticed

the inferno and alerted the state fire service."

"Firemen did everything possible and immediately stopped the spread of fire to other shops and subsequently put it out."

The spokesperson stated that the fire was suspected to be caused by an electric power surge. He advised the general public, especially traders, to always be safety conscious.