Cops shot in latest gun violence

By Fahirul N. Raml

AMPANG — The gun violence which gripped the nation mid-last year appears to be making a comeback with a fourth shooting case recorded in Klang Valley within the span of a week.

Two policemen were shot at yesterday in Taman Lembah Majo, Ampang, when they tried to check on two men who were behaving suspiciously.

Lance Corporal Human Richard Jr and Constable Zul Fadli Ariffin were on their rounds in Jalan Lembah Majo when they drove past a food court and saw the two men by the roadside at 10.30pm.

One was sitting on a parked motorcycle, while the other was squatting near a drain. The two policemen stopped and approached the man, but the duo made a run for it.

Richard and Zul Fadli gave chase. As they got closer, Richard managed to grab one of the suspects by his shirt and the latter turned around and fired twice with a gun, hitting the policeman in his abdomen. He then fired a third shot, which grazed Zul Fadli just below his waist.

The shooter and his accomplice then ran off — one towards the shophouse in front of the food court, and the other into the housing estate nearby.

The wounded men indured for help and were sent to the Ampang Hospital.

Senior deputy police chief Dato' Abdul Rahim Jafar said Richard would have to undergo surgery, while Zul Fadli was given outpatient treatment.

It was learnt the shooter had used an air gun with ball-bearing bullets.

Fahirul N. Raml said firearms and the ESF team did not find any bullet slugs or shells at the crime scene.

“The two suspects are in their 30s, and are believed to be partners in crime.”

“The suspect, whose shirt was torn, had the tattoo of a tiger on his back, so we are looking into the possibility of them being gang members,” Fahim said, adding that the two had also tried to hit the policemen with their helmets, which have been seized.

He also said checks showed the bike used by the suspects was stolen in Setapak last year. It had a false registration plate.

Roadblocks were immediately set up, and a full force has been assigned to probe the shooting.

The case is being investigated under Section 309 of the Penal Code for attempted murder.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar, who visited the injured men, said this was the 11th police officer in the Klang Valley to be shot.

He said every police man should be alert and vigilant, especially if they were assigned to crime hotspots.

“Our men have to always be alert and vigilant, especially if they are assigned to crime hotspots,” Khalid said.

What led to Ops Cantas

In August 2012, federal police launched a major crackdown nationwide to stem the rising tide of violence.

A special operation code-named Ops Cantas was mounted.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar said Ops Cantas Alas was a maiden operation to stamp out gangsterism, which the police had identified as the root of shootings, drug cases, and robberies.

In the later stages of Ops Cantas Khan, police went after gang leaders and their followers.

The Home Ministry released the names of the group as part of a huge operation to check violent crimes.

Police unleashed tough action against these gangs that were identified as the most dangerous.

Hundreds of people and vehicles were checked, with raids at eight blocks were conducted every day.

Police were also on the lookout for those who had tattoos to see if they were gang-related tattoos.

Within four months of Ops Cantas, 1.1 million Malaysians have been screened, and from that number, 39,077 were arrested.

The swift action by police came after several high-profile shootings including the murder of Customs deputy director-general Tan Sri Sinarudin Mohd. Kahrim and shooting of anti-crust activist R. Sundram.