

# Open season on merchants

## Armed thugs target Korean stores

By **Richard Reyes Fruto**  
Korea Times

Armed robbers apparently declared open season on Korean markets in South Central Los Angeles when three stores were held up within 21 hours.

Gunmen shot one store employee and got away with more than \$12,000 when they robbed three stores within a mile of each other, police reported.

"They could be related, but they may not," Detective Nolan Gilmore said. Police have made no arrests so far.

At least six Korean businesses in south and South Central Los Angeles have been robbed since Memorial Day weekend. Two Koreans and two blacks died in the previous robberies.

"It seems to happen a lot lately, so we must be careful. It is scary," said Chun Hi Yi, who owns one of the markets robbed July 1.

Yi and the two other shopkeepers who

were robbed recently said they had never been held up since they bought their stores three to eight years ago.

Suk Young Yu, 31, was shot in the leg and buttocks when a lone robber in a stocking mask held up New Fortune Market at 9018 S. Vermont Ave. at 2:30 p.m. on June 30, police said.

The robber shot her three times when she tried to hide because she was afraid, said store owner Hwi Nam Yu, the victim's



Armed robbers struck three Korean owned business in one-mile area within 21 hours.

father.

Suk Young Yu was released from the hospital four days later, her father said.

According to Gilmore, the victim's parents and brother were working in the store at the time of the robbery.

At 8:30 a.m. the next day, three armed men in ski masks robbed M&H Market at 95th Street and Vermont Avenue, five blocks away.

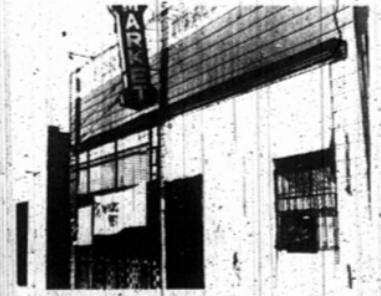
At 11:50 a.m., only three hours later, two men in ski masks entered Harris Liquor Store at 11315 S. Main St., a mile away, and started firing in the air, police said.

They took \$400 from the store and \$300 from a delivery man, Yi said.

They took \$12,000 from the store, which also ran a check cashing counter, Gilmore said.

Three market robberies in a row are unusual, especially two in one morning, Gilmore said.

Suzie Chung contributed to this story.



Above: New Fortune Market; below: M&H Market.



## Robbery

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