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Tuesday, September 13, 2011 14:13



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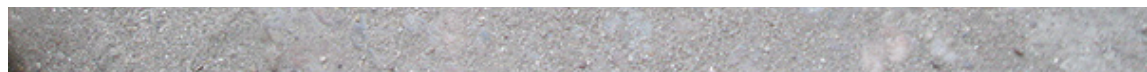
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Auchi bank robbery claims one life

By Jethro Ibileke
August 11, 2011 12:52AM

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Suspected armed robbers yesterday invaded the polytechnic town of Auchi, the administrative headquarters of Etsako West Local Government Area in Edo State, killing a yet-to-be-identified police officer and injuring another person in the process.

The latest robbery was targeted at the Auchi branch of a bank where they successfully operated for over 40 minutes.

The robbers arrived at the bank barely 20 minutes after a bullion van brought money to the bank from an undisclosed location in the early hours of the morning and shot sporadically into the air to scare away passers-by.

The police officer, who was in mufti, was allegedly hit by a stray bullet while transacting other business close to the premises of the bank. The gunmen shot sporadically in every direction during the attack.

The six-member gang, who came in two Toyota Camry cars, successfully carted away an undisclosed sum of money.

An eyewitness, however, claimed that the police security attached to the bank escaped the scene of the robbery by pulling off their uniforms. Some soldiers, however, moved in to engage the robbers in a gun battle before they finally left the banking premises.

Bank robberies have become a thing of worry to residents of Auchi, Ekpoma and Uromi areas of Edo, as the area has witnessed more than 10 attacks within the last seven months. Yesterday's attack is coming on the heels of one carried out last week Tuesday.

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