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Robbers kill police officer, two others in Kano

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Three persons, including a police officer, have been shot dead by armed robbers, who invaded the popular Kantin-Kwari textile market, Kano, on Tuesday evening, about 5 p.m., carting away large sums of money in the process.

According to an eyewitness account, the robbers, who are about nine, arrived the Kantin-Kwari market on motorbikes and headed straight to a shop, marked NBTX, owned by a Chinese, while the day's proceeds were being evacuated into a waiting bullion van contracted to convey it to a bank.

On arrival, the robbers, it was learnt, deployed some of their men to block two strategic entry and exit points to the shop, located on IBB Way, while one of the robbers shot and seized the sack of money from one of the men loading it into the waiting bullion van and disappeared with it into the confused crowd.

As the robbery was in progress, according to our source, the fierce-looking robbers sporadically shot into the air to scare away intruders, a situation that prompted both sellers and buyers to run helter skelter for cover to avoid being hit by stray bullets.

"The sporadic gunshots attracted the attention of the police officer, who was escorting the bullion van and rushed to ascertain what was happening, only to be shot by one of the robbers, including an innocent motorcyclist, who was escaping from the scene".

Unconfirmed reports stated that two of the victims died from gunshot wounds while they were being conveyed to the hospital for treatment.

Attempts to interview some of the traders over the robbery failed, as police officers, who immediately rushed to the scene, cordoned off the area.

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer of the Kano State Police Command, ASP Musa Magaji Majiya, who confirmed the robbery, said detectives were on the trail of the robbers, adding that investigations have commenced.

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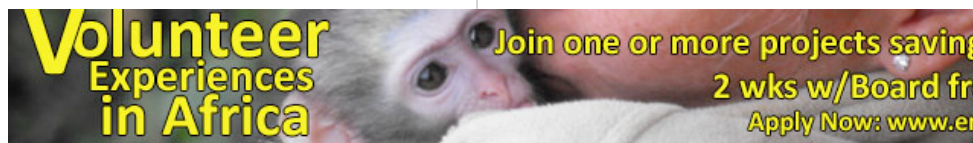
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