

Robbers kill police commissioner

MALACHY UZENDU, Abuja

BARELY 24 hours after robbers invaded a Bureau

de Change at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos, tragedy struck again yesterday in Abuja

when armed robbers invaded a commercial bank in the Central Area, Abuja, killing the Commissioner of Police (Police

Mobile Force), Mr. Felix Oteka.

The bandits were said to be operating in one of the

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commercial banks located in the Central Area (names withheld) near the multi-tower Churchgate Building, when the tragedy occurred.

Eyewitnesses said the police boss, who did not know of the operation problem, but was attending a function to represent the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) ran into the armed robbers who immediately opened fire on him.

Though details of the incident were sketchy as at press time, some members of the gang stationed outside the bank premises were said to have opened fire on the CP's vehicle.

The CP's police orderly, who was said to be the only person with him in the vehicle was reportedly escaped unhurt.

It was learnt the corpse of the Commissioner of Police had been deposited at the National Hospital mortuary.

When contacted, the Force Public Relations Officer, Mr. Haz Iwendi, confirmed the incident but said he was yet to be briefed on the details.

It is recalled that on

Robbers

September 26, gunmen killed eight policemen and three others in Lagos and Rivers State.

The bandits attacked banks in Lagos and bullion van in Rivers State.

Similarly on October 26, barely a month after the incident, another six policemen were killed in Lagos.

The robbers laid ambush against policemen who were responding to a distress call at a new generation bank in Abule Egba, Lagos.

An Assistant Superintendent of Police and other inspectors were among the deceased.

Also, in November this year two cops were again killed and millions of naira carted away in a robbery attack in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

However, another four policemen lost their lives in a robbery attack at Surulere.

The policemen were said to be dismantling a road block suspected to be mounted by gunmen when the bandits who hid from a distance shot and killed

all the policemen.

Aside from the death of the cops, several banks have been variously raided and monies carted away in various parts of the country.

On Monday, robbery suspected numbering over 20 raided a Bureau de Change at the Murtala Mohammed International airport carting away N100 million.

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was marred by irregularities even as he indicted the returning officer, Mr Fidel Egoro, as well as the police as collaborators in the irregularities perpetrated to facilitate the victory of "governor Achike Udenwa's protégé", Osita Ozunaso in the primary.

The maverick politician who declared Governor Udenwa as his opponent in the election specifically noted that the irregularities were perpetrated after nine local governments had voted, during which his delegates were denied accreditation and were not allowed entry into the venue.