

2 killed as robbers cart away N20m from BOC

DELE OGUNYEMI, Ibadan

T**WO** people were killed in Ibadan the Oyo State capital, in the early hours of yesterday through stray bullets from some dare devil armed robbers who invaded a popular bureau de change at Sabo area making away with over N20million in various foreign currencies.

The imposing business premises of the finance company - Ibrofil Bureau De Change Limited - was bullet-ridden together with two exotic cars neatly parked in the garage as the armed robbers operated for over three hours, and in the process, subjecting the entire neighbourhood into hostages in their respective homes.

Eye witness accounts revealed that the hoodlums numbering about 40, including both men and women, armed

with sophisticated weapons had stormed the bureau de change at exactly 1.30 a.m., shooting sporadically thus sending signals that they had not come for a peace mission.

According to sources, the armed robbers had used welding equipment notably cylinder gas with nozzle to force open the security gates into the complex after which they forcefully broke open the safe and eventually carted away the assorted currencies in bags.

It was gathered that the police later responded to the distress calls by people in the neighbourhood, but the superior fire power of the armed bandits resulted in the security operatives scampering back for safety.

In the process, the armed robbers reportedly drove

away hurriedly with their loot but left behind an AK47 rifle loaded with ammunition which was later retrieved by the sympathizing Hausa community in the area.

The angry Sabo residents could not believe their eyes at the gory sight as they besieged the complex in droves and in annoyance, they mounted bonfires at strategic junctions leading to the community thus forcing vehicular traffic to detour for several hours of the morning.

The Police Public Relations Officer- (PPRO) for the State Command, Mr. Olu Akinmoladun an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), confirmed the robbery, disclosing however that investigations had already commenced with a view to getting to