

Three killed as robbers raid bank in Aba

.... One killed in Edo jail break

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THREE persons, including a cashier with a new generation bank in, Aba, were killed by a ten-man armed robbery gang that robbed the bank at about 4p.m. yesterday. The other two were a customer of the bank and a boy who attacked the robbers by throwing stones at them.

This is as prison officials shot dead an inmate who tried to escape in a botched jail break at the Ubiaja prison, Edo State.

Saturday Champion investigations revealed that the robbers, who were armed with sophisticated weapons shot sporadically at the bank premises as they made their way through the bank's back door.

It was gathered that as the robbers, who made away with unspecified amount of money, were shooting, a girl who came with them was busy supplying them with bullets.

It was also gathered that police personnel armoured carrier that came to the scene of the robbery had to drive away because the robbers were shooting at them and challenged them to come for real exchange of gun power.

The armoured car had to retreat probably for reinforcement. But when it came back, it did not stop at the scene as people started to throw stones at the armoured car.

Also, the Bakassi group that came to the scene as the robbery was still going on could not do anything due to superior fire

power that came from the robbers. They also had to run away.

Saturday Champion investigations also revealed that the boy who was shot dead by the robbers at Azikiwe/Mosque junction was throwing stones at them and the robbers were said to have warned him to stop as they were not after him.

But the boy did not take the warning serious and continued and then the robbers had to shoot him.

As the robbers were carrying on with their job at the bank, the fire power that was coming from their shooting caused people to run helter shelter and in the process many of them were wounded by strayed bullet.

No official of the bank was at the bank premises when *Saturday Champion* visited the scene. Also no police official was forthcoming with information at the Aba Area Command when our correspondent visited. The Area Commander, Mr. Femi Ogunbayode, and the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Aba Central Police station were not in their offices.

Saturday Champion gathered that the Ubiaja jail break, allegedly caused by poor feeding of the prison inmates also left a prison warder injured.

Confirming the incident, the state Commissioner of Police said that the command has despatched 500 policemen to quell the situation, adding that none of the prisoners escaped.