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### Robbers kill 10 in Anambra

JUSTIN OZUZU, *Nnewi*

It was another black Tuesday in Nnewi, Anambra State, as armed robbers yesterday held the entire town hostage during a bank robbery that lasted over two hours, killing over 10 people and leaving 12 others on the danger list. The robbers allegedly carted away an undisclosed sum of money.

Among those killed at the incident on the ever busy Ezemewi road otherwise known as bank road, include four policemen, a lawyer, and some customers inside one of the new generation bank (names withheld) and some passers-by who were hit by stray bullets while the operation lasted.

An eye witness said the robbers stormed the scene with a Hilux van and a commuter Hiace Bus and were dressed in full military regalia to beat security operatives within the bank vicinity before they eventually opened fire to commence operation, after blocking all the entrances to the scene.

*Daily Champion* gathered that the hoodlums who were armed to the teeth however over powered the security operatives attached to the bank before gaining entrance to the vault.

She described the incident as a mere display of superior fire power, saying one of the robbers that was stationed near her shop window was always heard calling for more magazines as soon as he ran out of bullets, until the arrival of Nkwo Nnewi Vigilante Unit who started engaged them in a gun duel.

When *Daily Champion* visited the scene shortly after the incident, there was heavy vehicular traffic on the road as traders trooped out en-masse to catch a glimpse of the whole saga, a situation which made it impossible to take adequate stock of the extent of damage. Even though more than fifteen vehicles of different make were sprayed with bullet.

Hon Francis Omo Okeke, attributed the increasing robbery incident in Nnewi to porous security network by the agencies, adding that only two months ago a similar incident took place on Ichi-Ojoto-Nnewi road.

He described the incident as an eye opener, while calling on the state government to ensure the security of lives and property in the area, saying no one knows what will happen sooner than later or who will be the next victim. He advocated the fortification of Nigerian security and creation of employment opportunities.

Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital Nnewi to ascertain the extent casualties and the exact number of corpses deposited at the hospital mortuary, nurses were sighted appealing to sympathizers who besieged the entire premises for blood donation to save some victims in dire need of blood at the hospital wards.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Mr Chukwuemeka Emeka confirmed the incident has come to his table but said he was yet to be briefed officially on the incident.



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