

5 slain in Akure bank raid

Daily Champion

No fewer than five people were reportedly killed in a bank robbery that occurred in Akure, the Ondo State capital, yesterday. Seven people sustained injuries. The incident which happened around 10.00 am threw the entire community into pandemonium as motorists and pedestrians ran for their lives. It forced them to be attacked by the robbers. Two old generation banks (names withheld) were raided.

Daily Champion learnt the robbers shot sporadically to gain entry into the banking halls of the two banks. Two of them were ladies who on getting to the adjoining streets to prevent likely reaction of the police.

The bullet-proof security doors of the two banks were blown down by the robbers with dynamite before they gained entry into the banking halls. Residents around the Oja Oba Market area of the town were in panic with people running helter skelter for their lives.

One of those killed was a middle aged woman said to have withdrawn some money from the bank with her child strapped on her back. She was reportedly injured. The arrival of security operatives was rejected by the people, who threw stones at the vehicles brought by police because they arrived late at the scene of the robbery. State Command, Aremu Adeniran, however, said only two people were killed during the operation, adding that men of the command were already on the ground. Meanwhile, the Ondo State Government which described the incident as unfortunate and sad, said the state which had been enjoying peace since the end of the war was a haven for robbers.

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Mr. Kolawole Olabisi, disclosed that while the state government was deeply sad about the attacks. It warned that government would, however, not fold its arms and watch the state turn into an operating ground for hoodlums.

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