

Robbers attack bank, kill one

A gang of heavily armed robbers yesterday attacked and took away hug sums of money from the Ogbokolo branch of a bank and in the process, killed one person and injured others. Ugbokolo is a Polytechnic town about 50 kilometers from Otukpo.

About nine robbers who stormed the bank at 9am shot their way into the strong room where they took away an undisclosed amount of money.

Witnesses said the robbers whose operation lasted several minutes, successfully left the bank and headed towards Otupko through the Benue State Polytechnic where they shot sporadically to stop any challenge. The witnesses said several people, including a male student were hit by the bullets. Reports also said the robbers opened fire on a Honda car whose occupants were the Managing Director of Ejifa Transport Services, Mr. Agbo Agbo, his personal aide and the driver. All three

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

were reportedly wounded, while the personal assistant died. Our sources said also that a site labourer of PW which has a contract to construct a rural road around the area, was equally hit by the bullets. The robbers were

said to have stormed the bank in two cars, and driven off before the police arrived. State Police Public Relations Officer Samuel Jinadu (DSP) refused to give official confirmation since, according to him, the information was still sketchy when contacted yesterday.

Media practitioners to blame for non passage of

I mo State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Chief Chuma Nnaji has attributed the delay in the passage of the Freedom of Information Bill by the National Assembly to the inability of media practitioners to lobby the members.

Chief Nnaji who stated this in Owerri yesterday at a seminar organised by the state council of NUJ said until media practitioners in the country convince Nigerians that the bill would not witch hunt anyone, the bill would remain a dead one.

He said journalists have not played any active role in

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convincing the public that the bill would not be violated whenever it is passed into law.

The Commissioner who applauded the draft of the bill as something that would be better for the society at the end stressed the need for every media practitioners to work hard to actualize the objective. Nnaji who was the chairman of the occasion said the National Assembly was beaming searchlight on the practitioners on the bill before any legislation on it.

He appealed to the media practitioners to do the job the way it should be done for the