

4 killed, 17 injured in Katsina daylight robbery attack

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Katsina

FOUR people have been confirmed killed in a daylight armed robbery attack yesterday in Batsari local government area of Katsina state.

Also, 17 others, including a beggar, sustained injuries.

One of the dead persons, *Daily Trust* learnt, was an armed robber, who was shot dead by the police during a fire exchange shortly after the robbery operation.

The 4-man gang of armed robbers stormed a Micro-finance Bank in Batsari town on two brand new motorbikes at about 2:00 pm and opened fire on customers before they finally made away with undisclosed amount of money. A witness, Muhammad Niura Batsari, told *Daily Trust* on phone that the robbers forcefully gained access into the bank and opened fire before they finally made away with money.

The robbers, *Daily Trust* further heard, killed one person in the town and injured several others before they zoomed-off. But they were chased by the police. Confirming the incident to newsmen, the state police commissioner, Mr. Ibrahim Muhammad said that "one of the robbers was killed. We also recovered two AK47, two motorbikes and undisclosed amount of money from the robbers"

He said others armed robbers ran but sustained gunshots and "we will intensify our search in the village until we capture them dead or alive stone ~~turned our efforts in searching for~~ the runaway robbers," he said.

"Today is our day since we have succeeded in killing one of the armed robbers and recovered some arms and the money they have stolen. The money is salary for Batsari local government staffers," said the commissioner. The Divisional Police Officer in charge of Batsari, Mr. Sylvester Agade told newsmen at the Police command that, "we pursued the armed robbers for two hours inside the bush before we finally killed one of them and injured others."

Daily Trust visited Katsina General Hospital where the injured victims of the attack were admitted. A nursing officer at the hospital confirmed that eight injured persons were referred to Federal Medical Centre, Katsina, for treatment as their conditions were critical.

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