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## Nigeria: Gunmen Raid Kogi Prison, Kill One

BY USMAN A. BELLO, 16 FEBRUARY 2012

Lokoja — A gang of gunmen yesterday evening invaded a prison in Koton Karifi , Kogi State, killing one prison warder and set free an unspecified number of inmates.

Daily Trust gathered that the gunmen, numbering over 20, stormed the prison at about 7 pm, blasted through the prison doors and set free the inmates.

The source said on arrival at the prison, the gunmen fired at the security men at the entrance of the prison, killing one of the officers.

The source said the gunmen bombed the main gate of the prison before setting the inmates free.

"After bombing the gate, they immediately moved into the prison shooting sporadically in order to chase other prison officers away who might resist their attempt to free some of their members arrested and brought to the prison," the source said.

According to the source, other prisoners took advantage of the situation and escaped from the prison after the gunmen had left the premises with their members.

According to an officer, who craved for anonymity, the gunmen came in full force and parked their vehicles miles away from the prison, adding that they stormed the prison on a motor bike.

He said residents of Koton Karfe community, where the prison is located, ran for their lives when they heard sound of gunshots.

He added that the operation which lasted for about 30 minutes, left only one officer dead while other officers abandoned their duty post.

Responding on phone, the Kogi State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ajayi Okansomi, said he could not give details of the attack, saying he was in Lagos when he heard about the attacks. He said he was waiting for detailed information on the incident but there was no information from him up to the time of filing this report.

Tagged: [Legal Affairs](#), [Nigeria](#), [West Africa](#)



Nigerian police (file photo). (Photo Courtesy George Osodi/IRIN)

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