

Police kill two robbers in Lagos, one in Kano

ARMED robbers on Wednesday night attacked a bank in Apapa area of Lagos.

The incident occurred as police in Kano shot dead a suspected armed robber while attempting to break a household in Sabongari area of the city.

The Lagos armed robbers numbering about 50, arrived at the bank located on Kofo Abayomi Lane, Apapa, at about 12 midnight and started shooting.

Policemen in Apapa at midnight had to request for re-enforcement, which was immediately granted them by Lagos State Police Commissioner, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo.

A combined team of the *Rapid Response Squad (RRS)*, Mobile Police Force (MOPOL) and Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) were mobilised to join the waiting Commander, Area 'B', Mr. Femi Oyeye and the Divisional Police Officer, Apapa, Mr. Mohammed Ali, who led the team of policemen

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and
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to the area.

The robbers, who apparently were expecting the police offensive, opened fire the more.

Residents around the area had sleepless night sequel to the robbers' sporadic shootings.

A police source said the manner of shooting by the robbers and the sound of the weapons showed that they were carrying sophisticated rifles. But policemen who knew the terrain better than the robbers killed two of the criminals.

The state Police Spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajumi (SP), confirmed the killing of two of the robbers.

"Two of the robbers were killed, one was arrested while dozens escaped with bullet injuries. The incident gave the police sleepless night but we thank God the robbers did not succeed in breaking the

vault", Ojajumi said.

A top police officer said: "The robbers only succeeded in breaking into the banking hall. They did not gain access to the bank's vault, though they had settled down to start breaking the vault".

"We had a fierce gun battle with the robbers. We recovered a Pathfinder Jeep, one Coaster Bus, seven gas cylinders, three sledge hammers, two AK-47 rifle, eight magazines and over 500 expended ammunition at the scene".

Many of the bank's property were vandalised due to the fierce shooting by the robbers.

Sources, however, faulted police claims and told *The Guardian* that millions of naira was carted away.

In Kano, hundreds of residents who had not heard of such violent crime in recent times swarmed the nearby Sabongari Market Police Post to take a glance at the lifeless body of a robbery suspect.

The robbery attempt failed when a distress call believed to have emanated from members of the household got to a team of policemen on night patrol.

The police were said to have reached the scene immediately and the gun duel that ensued between the robbers and the policemen led to the death of one of the robbers whose identity is still unknown.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Alhaji Baba Mohammed, confirmed the incident, saying: "Our men sighted them while carrying out their nefarious activities. They were challenged by our men but instead of surrendering, they started shooting at the police. So, the patrol team returned fire and pursued them. We were able to gun one down while the others escaped".

Mohammed disclosed that a single-barrel gun was recovered from the suspected robbers.

He reassured that the state police command remains committed to the task of maintaining security of lives and property in the metropolis.

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