

Robbers raid bank, kill two policemen in Kwara

YESTERDAY was not the best of days for the Kwara State Police Command as a gang of daredevil robbers after robbing a new generation bank killed two its officers.

Witnesses informed *The Guardian* that the 12-man gang armed with rifles suspected to be AK 47 had laid siege in the bank awaiting the arrival of a bullion van.

When the money-bearing vehicle arrived, the robbers over-powered and disarmed its police escort and made away with the money. They, however, left behind the bullion van. It was around 1.30 p.m.

The gang in their escape bid then snatched two seeming brand new cars - a Honda and a Toyota - along Ibrahim Taiwo Road, Ilorin, where they stored their loot and escaped.

*From Abiodun Fagbemi,
Ilorin*

But the bank management after the robbery, sent distress calls to the command's headquarters, which reacted promptly by detailing its men inside two patrol vehicles, after the run-away robbers.

Unknown to the policemen, the robbers had laid an ambush for them at Eyenkorin, a bus terminus on the outskirts of Ilorin, the state capital.

The policemen were sitting ducks as the robbers on sighting the marked police vehicles, allegedly opened fire on them. Two policemen were killed in the ambush.

Beholding the fate of their colleagues, other policemen on the trail of the robbers, jumped off their vehicles and took

cover inside a nearby bush.

The development, according to sources, gave the robbers the needed leverage to transfer their loot from the Honda and Toyota cars into the abandoned police vans and escaped with them.

The abandoned cars were noticed at the homicide section of the command's headquarters when *The Guardian* visited at about 3 p.m. yesterday.

Besides, one of the police vehicles was said to have been recovered few kilometres after Ogbo-mosho in Oyo State at about 2:30 p.m by more police reinforcement.

Palpable grief gripped men and officers of the command when the news of their colleagues' death filtered in.

The command's spokesman, Gideon

Makus, said the sudden robbery incident could not be divorced from the ongoing workshop in Abuja for some officers of the Nigerian Police, towards the forth - coming elections.

He added: "Some of our men are also following the candidates for the next month elections. These robbers usually study situations of things before coming out for operations."

Makus, who spoke with *The Guardian* from Abuja, the venue of the workshop on phone, said the commissioners of police were also part of the workshop.

When contacted, the Deputy Commissioner of Police in Kwara, Mr Ade Adeniji told *The Guardian* that the command was "still on the matter."