

# Robbers kill three policemen, two civilians in bank raid

**B**ANDITS again struck at a branch of a commercial bank in Gbagada

area of Lagos yesterday, killing three mobile policemen and two civilians. The policemen were on guard at the bank when the robbers invaded it.

The incident brings to six the number of banks robbed in Lagos since January 2007.

*By Alex Olise  
and Oditia Sunday*

In the previous cases, 10 persons among them six policemen were killed by the dare-devil robbers.

Police sources told *The Guardian* yesterday that the robbers made away with an undisclosed amount of money from the bank.

The attack, which was

described as “well

planned and well executed”, lasted for only 15 minutes. Besides the death toll, many customers were reportedly injured by gunshots from the robbers.

The gunmen had arrived at the bank at about 1.00 p.m. fully armed with sophisticated weapons which they used to overpower the policemen on

duty.

The raid caused panic among residents as the sound of gunshots fired by the robbers and policemen during the gun duel filled the air.

Eyewitnesses claimed that the robbers sneaked into the bank separately before their hit squad arrived with exotic cars carefully parked outside

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# Robbers kill five in Lagos

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the bank premises.

They allegedly made straight for the banking hall as soon as their hitman came. The mobile policemen were said to have noticed their movement and decided to enquire into their mission, during which one of the robbers brought out his gun and shot one of the policemen.

This attracted the other two policemen who took over and shot at the robbers but could not fall their target. The hoodlums were alleged to be wearing bullet-proof vests.

The robbers took over the banking hall and made the employees and customers to lie face-down on the floor.

The gunmen were said to have left the scene before the arrival of the police Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) re-enforcement.

The state Police Commissioner, Mr. Bashiru Azeez, has detailed detectives to trail the gang before the members wreak fresh havoc.

A senior police officer said efforts to track down the gang had been intensified.

The last attack on a bank in the state occurred along the Isole-Oshodi highway when five gunmen killed three Mobile policemen on duty.

The Lagos State Police Command spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, who confirmed the incident, said two policemen and one civilian were killed by the robbers.

Ojajuni said the APC deployed to the scene arrived after the robbers had left.

He said: "The robbers who invaded the bank at about 1.30 p.m. left before our two APCs arrived there.

The robbers were snappy." Before the April general elections, five banks in Ladipo, Mushin and Alaba, Ojo were raided by bandits.

In the Alaba case, the robbers came with sophisticated weapons, and a Coastal bus loaded with welding equipment and gas cylinders.

Eyewitnesses told The Guardian then that a number of people killed by the robbers littered the Alaba Market Road at bout 7.00 a.m. before police came to move them to the mortuary.

Ojajuni had confirmed that: "Four persons were feared dead and two of the robbers were also gunned down by our men, while three were arrested. The four innocent persons who died were passengers in a commercial bus popularly called molue.