

# Robbers kill six policemen, others at bank raids

**A**RMED robbers again went on the rampage yesterday, raiding a bank in Lagos and another in Ibadan, Oyo State, yesterday.

At the end of their operation in Lagos, they left dead three mobile policemen, one bank guard and a civilian. In Ibadan, the robbers killed three other policemen and a bank official.

And as Kano writhes in

the grip of armed robbers, the state government yesterday urged security agencies to step up their operations.

The Lagos State Police Command held a minute silence in honour of the departed officers during a press briefing yesterday.

The robbers who unleashed terror on the bank in the Ejigbo area of Lagos were said to be about 50 in number. They

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had arrived in commercial buses, armed with AK 47 rifles, welding machines and a generator at about 2.00 a.m., with a view to gaining entry into the bank's vault. But police operatives prevented them from gaining

entry. However, they succeeded in removing cash and other valuables in the banking hall.

The Police Commissioner, Mr. Mohammed Abubakar, also paraded 95 young girls whom he said were being trafficked by some people.

He said that three armed robbers were killed, while 18 were arrested.

Abubakar revealed that

out of 1,955 persons arrested during raids, 1,241 had been prosecuted, while 10 bullion vans had been arrested for misusing their siren in the metropolis.

Nine arms and 34 ammunition were also recovered.

The achievements listed by the police boss were made within one week.

"I am excited to inform you that the rekindled

confidence of the public in us and their encouragement have strengthened our onslaught on crime and criminal elements in the state over the past one week," he said.

The suspected victims of child-trafficking, who were paraded by the police boss were arrested in some hotels on the suburbs of Lagos, while

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# Robbers raid bank in Lagos

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the anti-robbery success recorded by the command was achieved by

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men of the State's Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti, Yaba; Iponri Police Station; Adeniji Adele Police Station; Alapere Police Station; Makinde Police Station; Mosafejo Police Station and Alakuko Police Station.

Eleven officers who led the breakthrough were given cash and other rewards.

Pandemonium broke out in Bodija area of Ibadan, when dare devil armed robbers invaded one of the old generation banks in the area, killing two policemen attached to the bank and leaving one critically injured. They carted away an undisclosed sum of money.

The robbers, who were said to be parading the city with various types of vehicles in large number, also manhandled some of the bank officials, injuring some in the process.

Already, one of the affected employees, reported to have been shot, is now on danger list at the University College

Hospital (UCH).

The robbers, according to eyewitness account, had trailed a bullion van to another old generation bank in the market but could not enter due to stiff resistance by the security operatives of the bank.

The robbers then turned to another bank directly opposite their original target.

According to sources, the affected policemen, one Corporal Jimoh Fulani and Musa who was shot in the stomach, were on danger list at the UCH. The name of the other deceased officer could not be ascertained.

The walls of the banks were riddled with bullets and splashes of blood were noticed.

Also, in Kajorepo area of Ibadan, another policeman was said to have been killed by another gang of armed robbers.

In a related development, Dizengoff area of Iwo Road, residents of

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the area were visited by yet another gang of bandits in the early hours of the day, carting away valuable items.

Two of the robbers at the Iwo Road area, Gbenga Adedeji and Tope Akindele, were however unlucky as they were apprehended with a locally made pistol and other weapons by the people of the area. They were handed over to the police.

The victim, who spoke under anonymity, said handsets, money, and other valuable items were carted away by the robbers, while the people were seriously beaten and macheted.

While confirming the incidents, the State Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Tunji Caulrick, said two policemen were killed during the gun duel at the bank.

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at the family house are retired Air Vice Marshal Hamza Abdullahi, Colonel Hamid Ali (rtd), Gen. Buba Marwa; Gen. Mohammed Magoro; Gen. Ahmed Gusau; Alhaji Umaru Dikko. Col. U.F. Ahmed (rtd), Mallam Uba Sani, Alhaji Habu Fari; Col. Abdulmumini Aminu (rtd); Gen. Mohammed Inuwa Wushishi, Alhaji Hassan Jallo; Rev. Joseph Hayab; Alhaji Ahmadu Chachangi; Tijjani Hashim and Aliyu Alkali.

He also vowed that the robbers would be brought to book as the command had step up measures of apprehending the culprits.

The Kano State governor, Ibrahim Shekarau, the Emir of Kano, Dr. Ado Bayero, among others, yesterday rose from an emergency meeting expressing concern over the spate of robberies within the Kano metropolis in recent times.

They called on security agencies to do more in arresting the ugly trend.

Spokesperson of the group, Dr. Magaji Dambatta, said the inability of the security agencies to bring the culprits to book made the situation more worrisome.

"Armed robbery is becoming rampant within the metropolis and we are worried about this because the police appear to be helpless by the day.

"What is more worrisome is that most of the robberies and suspected assassinations that had taken place go unresolved, thereby giving the criminals the licence to go about their nefarious trade," he said.

Dambatta, who is a chieftain of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), enjoined the Federal Government to empower the police in terms of welfare, additional recruits and logistics like communication gadgets, arms and ammunition.