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Robbers kill seven in Kaduna, Kwara

From Saxone Akhaine (Kaduna) and Abiodun Fagbemi (Ilorin)

ABOUT eight armed robbers yesterday invaded a new generation bank opposite Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria north gate, killing about seven people and carting away millions of naira.

A policeman attached to the bank, the manager of Daula Restaurant, opposite the university, a commercial cyclist, his passenger, a girl and two children were killed outside. Nobody was killed inside.

They took away money in the safe and in a bullion van that just arrived at the bank.

In Kwara State, no less than N3.2 million was stolen by robbers who attacked a first generation bank at Omu-Aran in Irepodun Council also yesterday.

According to a witness, the robbers, numbering six, including a female, held the bank's accountant and a cashier at gunpoint and ordered them to open the vault.

The time was 9 a.m., as the bank's workers were still opening for business to customers.

Four of the robbers in uniform which could, however, not be identified but which was thought to be that of either the police or the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) stayed inside the bus in which they had come, while the female member and the fifth man approached the banking hall unnoticed.

The robbers, according to the state Police Commissioner, Abubakar Audu, who later spoke with The Guardian, had earlier snatched an 18-seater bus of a popular private international secondary school located in Offa.

They had then driven into the bank's premises apparently

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giving the impression that they are on genuine business from the school.

However, once inside the bank, the male robber reportedly pulled out his gun and threatened to kill the cashier and the accountant unless he was led into the vault.

Abubakar added: "The male robber and the female one immediately ordered everybody to lie down at gun point. They marched the accountant and the cashier into the strong room and ordered it opened. They went away with about N3.2 million.

Although the police gave a hot chase to the robbers, the gang's superior firepower was apparent in the magnitude of the damage done to the ALGON Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) of the police, which was riddled with bullet, while the four tyres were deflated.

Already, the police have arrested drivers of the school bus.

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