

Two-man gang kills policemen, injures others

From Hendrix Oliomogbe, Asaba

TWO mobile policemen were yesterday killed by gunmen at the premises of a new generation bank in Asaba.

Several others also suffered injuries in the attack, which threw residents of the Delta State capital into panic.

Another policeman, who was severely injured and on danger list, is receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital in Asaba.

The policemen, who were reportedly posted on guard duty at the bank, had hardly disembarked from the Peugeot 504 car which conveyed them to the bank when they came under attack by the hoodlums riding a motorbike.

The Ogbesowa neighbourhood of Asaba was the theatre of the bloody robbery, which took place at about 9a.m.

A police source, who pleaded anonymity, explained that the ill-fated policemen had taken the Ogbese route to beat the usual traffic near Ogbegologo Market. Unknown to them, the robbers were trailing them on a motorbike.

The bandits reportedly carted away the policemen's guns.

The Delta State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Banawi Ishaku, said some policemen have been deployed to hunt down the robbers, stressing that the recent upsurge in violent crimes by bike-riding hoodlums is a cause for concern.

According to him, the robbers were only out to shoot the policemen and not to rob the bank, as they did not make for the bank after the hail of bullets.

The police image maker said: "The policemen had just left the station and were on their way to guard duty at the bank when the robbers who were trailing them while they were still in the vehicle caught up with them and opened fire."