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## Officer, seven others feared dead in police, robbers duel

*From Chuks Collins, Awka*

**I**T was a bloody encounter yesterday at Enugu Agida, Enugu State when policemen and armed robbers engaged themselves in a gun duel, leaving at least one policeman and seven of the hoodlums feared dead.

It was gathered that the hoodlums attacked a bullion van that belongs to a commercial bank.

The policemen attached to the van were said to have put up a spirited effort to prevent the armed robbers from carrying out their dastardly act, but were overpowered by the hoodlums who eyewitness said were about 20 in number.

According to an eyewitness, the robbers, after finding it difficult to penetrate the bullet proof van with bullets, practically tore it down and removed the money that was said to be running into millions of naira.

The Guardian learnt that the robbers, after their attack on the bullion van headed for the Special Anti Armed Robbery Squad (SAARS) headquarters in Awkuzu and laid siege there. The officers, it was said, had to run into the bush to escape attack by the deadly hoodlums who operated uninterrupted for nearly two hours.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Bello Amusa, who confirmed the incident, said one policeman lost his life in the encounter, while two others sustained bullet injuries.

Bello also claimed that seven of the hoodlums were gunned down by the police in the duel.

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