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[Contributors](#)  
[Letters](#)  
[Cartoons](#)  
[Discussions](#)  
[Outlook](#)

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[Abroad](#)  
[Golf Weekly](#)  
[Results](#)

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[Focus](#)  
[Policy & Politics](#)  
[Arts](#)  
[Media](#)  
[Science](#)  
[Natural Health](#)  
[Law](#)  
[Education](#)  
[Weekend](#)  
[Friday Review](#)  
[Executive Briefs](#)  
[Fashion](#)

## Police parade 12 suspected robbers, kill two

*From John-Abba Ogbodo, Terhemba Daka (Abuja) and Alex Olise (Lagos)*

**T**HE fight against crime and other related vices has begun to yield fruits as the police authorities in Abuja yesterday paraded 12 suspects arrested for allegedly robbing a bank of the sum of N215 million.

Also in Lagos, four armed bandits were killed after they raided a bank in the city.

This is just as the Police warned management of banks in Nigeria to be wary of people they employ in their services.

The robbers, according to the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mike Okiro, were among those who allegedly robbed an Onitsha bank of N215 million on September 17, 2008.

Okiro, who briefed journalists at the Force Headquarters yesterday, explained that the robbers attacked the bullion van on its way from Onitsha to Awka at Awkuzu, Anambra State and made away with the money after a heavy gun battle with the police.

He explained that two bank officials were alleged to have conspired with the robbers to attack the bullion van while conveying the cash.

A police constable was killed in the ensuing gunfight. Some of the robbers were also killed while others escaped with bullet wounds.

Okiro said that the first suspect in the robbery made the arrest of the robbers possible. The 23-year-old motorcyclist who was shot in the anus by the police

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during the exchange of gunfire on that fateful day, was arrested by the police at a shrine in Aguleri where he went to extract the bullets from his body.

The Guardian learnt that a gang of robbers, numbering about 15, who raided a bank in Ladipo in Lagos metropolis, were given stiff resistance by the police.

The source added that two of the armed robbers were shot dead while trying to escape with their members. The police had chased the bandits from the bank to Gbagada area where a gun battle ensued and two members of the gang killed in the shoot-out.

It was not clear as at press time if the robbers succeeded in carting away money before policemen confronted them.

However, sources at the bank told The Guardian that the robbers could not gain access to bank vault but must have succeeded in collecting some cash from customers inside the banking hall before the police came.

The state police spokesman, Mr. Frank Mba, a Superintendent of Police (SP), confirmed the incident, saying that police foiled the bank raid.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Inspector General of Police Zone 2, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar, yesterday in Lagos called on governments at all levels to commit more resources towards job creation for suffering citizens of the country in order to reduce crime.

The police chief spoke while delivering a paper titled: "Security, imperatives tool for national development in contemporary Nigeria; Social and corporate implications on future generations."

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