

DPO, 14 others feared killed in Delta, Zamfara

From **Hendrix Oliomogbo** (Asaba) and **Isah Ibrahim** (Gusau)

ABOUT 10 persons including a Divisional Police Officer (DPO) were feared dead yesterday at Ibusa, and Igbodo in Oshimili North and Ika North East Councils of Delta State during robbers' raid.

And in Zamfara State, about five policemen were yesterday killed by suspected armed robbers along Dangulbi, Gusau Road.

According to the Delta State's Public Relations Officer, Mr. Charles Muka, the DPO and three colleagues from Abraka who apparently got caught up on the way of the rampaging robbers fell from the bandits' bullets at Igbodo, as they were travelling to Asaba for the

weekly security meeting.

Muka gave the names of the fallen policemen as (SP) Steven Chigbusue, the DPO; an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) whom he simply called Danladi; while he could not readily identify the two others.

According to the police spokesman, Chigbusue in company of the three other policemen, was on his way to the state capital Asaba from Abraka, Ethiopia West Council when he ran into the bandits.

Muka remarked that the policemen were shot dead at Igbodo on the Benin-Asaba-Onitsha Expressway in the ensuing gun duel.

According to him, after shooting the four policemen dead,

the robbers proceeded to Ibusa, about 30 minutes drive and headed straight to the banks for the operation.

The gangsters held the town hostage for about two terrifying hours before they were dislodged by the police.

Muka said: "Yes. The robbers shot our men dead at Igbodo on their way to Asaba for the weekly security meeting at the Police headquarters in Asaba to distract us but we succeeded in killing five of them during the operation."

He, however, said that among the casualties were five members of the robbery gang who were shot dead by the police at Ibusa.

During the raid on the old generation bank in Ibusa,

Muka said that the police quickly mobilised from the nearby mobile base at Ogwashi-Uku when news of the raid filtered in and blocked the town's major exits with armoured tanks where an ambush was laid for the bandits.

He added that a cache of arms was recovered from the fleeing bandits, adding that the police have intensified efforts to apprehend them.

The robbers, about eight of them reportedly stormed Ibusa in a red Toyota Camry and a mini bus where they raided the new generation bank first before an angry mob, which had reportedly disarmed the hoodlums who were probably confused when

the operation went awry lynched two of the suspected criminals.

Those killed by the gunmen in Zamfara State included an inspector, corporals and constables.

However, two of the suspected gunmen were also killed by the police during a gun battle, while others ran away with gun wounds.

However, when *The Guardian* contacted the state Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Sanusi Amiru, he said that only one police officer was killed during the fire exchange and declined to release the victim's name, adding that two AK 47 and one local pistol were recovered from the runaway gunmen.