

Robbers On Rampage

- Kill Eight policemen In Lagos, Rivers
- Ambush Bullion Van, Steal N16m

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○ Eight policemen were killed in Lagos and Rivers States on Monday in robbery hits that also took the lives of two civilians.

Robbers struck Unity Bank, Abule-Egba in the suburb of Lagos in the morning, killed four policemen and a civilian and escaped with N16 million hard cash.

○ Also, four mobile policemen and a bank employee were shot

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Robbers On Rampage

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dead in the afternoon in an attack on a bullion van around Emohua, Rivers State.

Eyewitnesses recounted that the bandits in Lagos were over 40 in number.

They arrived around 1 a.m. and did not leave until 4 a.m. despite being engaged in cross fire by police anti-robbery squad for an hour.

They pumped bullets into the banking hall and pulled down the gate before heading to the strong room.

Two fast food outlets in the vicinity, Mr Biggs and Sweet Sensation, were sprayed with bullets on the walls and windows.

Policemen responded to a distress call and gave the bandits a good fight.

In the process, four officers – Danladi Dashe, Sabitu Abdullahi, Sylvester Ijegbai and Lawrence Abba attached to the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), Ikeja – and the civilian were killed.

Reports said a gang that has been terrorising banks in the state is behind the latest heist.

Some of the robbers killed by the police were whisked away by their colleagues to cover up their own tracks. They abandoned two AK47 rifles and live ammunition.

Two security guards with Mr Biggs, Samuel Okoro (23), and Emmanuel Opara (24), who were hit in the attack were taken to the nearby Me & Lord's Hospital and Maternity by sympathisers.

Okoro has been discharged, Opara is still on admission.

A nurse at the hospital said

he would not need surgery, because as the wound heals, the skin would naturally reject the pellets and force them off the skin.

The robbery is the 16th in Lagos in the last nine months.

And it brings to eight the number of policemen shot dead by robbers in the huge city in the last two weeks.

○ A Sergeant on patrol at Ojo-Oba bus stop in the Abule Egba area was killed in day light three days ago, the same day a Corporal was shot dead in the Orile axis by bandits who stole N1.2 million from a filling station.

○ A police officer was killed in Epe last week by those who raided a bureau-de-change, just as a civilian was killed by fleeing robbers in Iyana Ipaja.

Gangsters raided Shark Filling Station, Iyana-Iltre about 7 p.m. last Thursday. They inflicted gun shot wounds on two civilians and stole N750,000.

Police Spokesperson, Olubode Ojajuni, said teams from the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), Alakuko and Ojokoro dislodged the bandits in Abule-Egba, during which the four officers fought gallantly before they were mowed down.

Mr. Biggs (Head Corporate Affairs), Obi Adindu, blamed the incident on security lapses.

"We do not keep cash in our kits. We were affected because we are located close to the bank. Is it an offence to be close to a bank?" he wondered.

The deed may be a product of conspiracy.

A substantial amount of money was moved into the bank's vault on Sunday, according to sources, only to be raided

at 1.00 a.m. on Monday.

When the robbers arrived, a police patrol team usually stationed at Abule-Egba Junction was nowhere to be found.

Police Commissioner, Emmanuel Adebayo, has reportedly directed the anti-robbery squad in the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti, Yaba, Lagos; the SARS Monitoring Unit (MU) and State Criminal Intelligence Bureau (SCIB) to comb health institutions in the metropolis for the dead and the injured among the robbers.

The attack in Emohua, Rivers State simply re-emphasised the notoriety of the place, which is noted for deadly fighting among cult groups who possess hi-tech weapons.

One of the policemen in the escort vehicle escaped unhurt, but the legs of another were shattered and is on admission in hospital.

Police Commissioner, Samuel Adetuyi, confirmed the incident but said only two policemen died.

Sources said the bullion van was conveying a large amount of money from a bank in Trans-Amadi, Port Harcourt to Yenegoa in Bayelsa State and was waylaid as the driver tried to negotiate a bad patch on the busy East-West Road.

The assailants, dressed in red uniform, emerged from the bush and opened fire on the van, ransacked it and took the cash.

This came a few days after Adetuyi paraded about six suspects allegedly involved in headline robbery in the state.