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## Daily Independent (Lagos)

### Nigeria: 10 Policemen, Two Others Killed

Francis Onoirbholo and Segun Adeleye

12 February 2009

Twelve people went to their early graves on Wednesday in Benin and in Abeokuta where armed robbers broke loose with scant regard for the security agencies.

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Two civilians were killed along with 10 policemen, among them a Divisional Crime Officer (DCO) and two Inspectors.

Robbers murdered nine police officers in three different locations in Benin and other parts of Edo State.

The first incident occurred at Iyanomon on the Benin-Sapele Road where policemen responding to a distress call were ambushed by a gang who killed one and inflicted serious injuries on three others now on danger list in hospitals.

The second happened at Ugoneki village on the Benin-Agbor Road, where a gang operating in a Jeep, Mercedes Benz 190, and a bus chased a bullion van.

After ransacking the bullion van without getting a kobo, the robbers returned to Benin.

There, information got to the Ikpoba Hill police station where six of the officers who mobilised to block them met their deaths. Among them were a DCO, DTO, an Inspector, and a Sergeant.

In the third incident, at Enyan village on the Benin-Ehor Road, a police patrol team ran into another gang who opened fire on them, killed an Inspector and other three officers, and inflicted injuries on four.

Police Spokesman, Ebi Erebi, confirmed that officers were waylaid on the Benin-Sapele Road, where a police driver died on the spot.

He said the body of one of the robbers killed in the shoot-out was taken away by the other members of the gang.

"The policemen were on patrol between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. on Wednesday when they got a distress call that robbers were operating in the area.

"On their way they were ambushed and the robbers shot at them first. The officers lost one of their rifles to the robbers," Erebi recounted.

In Abeokuta, armed robbers felled a policeman and two civilians, one a student of the University of Agriculture (UNAAB).

It happened at about 10 a.m. when the UNAAB Micro-Finance Bank at the Igbein mini campus was robbed, as confirmed by Police Commissioner, Dipo Ayeni.

Several other people scampering for safety were either hit by stray bullets or wounded in the stampede.

Bank officials disclosed that the robbers launched the attack as pre-degree students, who resumed this week, were paying their fees.


"A female employee who sensed danger and attempted to take the money at the counter and rush it into the vault was spotted by the robbers who shot her dead," an eyewitness stated.

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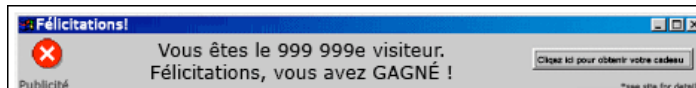
A police source confirmed the arrest of three staff of the bank.

"One of our officers who went to the school to pay the fees of his younger brother was shot during the robbery; a pregnant lady, who works with the National Blood Transfusion Service also had injury," the officer said.

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