

Two Policemen Killed In Bank Robbery

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TWO police constables were on Tuesday killed during a robbery attack on a first generation bank by bandits in Amassoma, Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Two other cops and some passers-by were also injured during the attack.

An eyewitness told *Daily Independent* that the robbery suspects numbering over 10 came through the Amassoma River in two speedboats at about 9:30 a.m. and headed straight for the bank that was a few metres away from the jetty.

The two policemen and private security guards attached to the bank put up

resistance, but were subdued by superior firepower of the bandits.

The raid, which lasted about an hour, threw Amassoma and other neighbouring communities into confusion, as some students of Niger Delta University (NDU) stayed back in their hostels for almost two hours, while other residents were forced to stay indoors.

The bandits, aside carting away substantial amount of money, killed two policemen and injured several others. Those injured are receiving treatment at the Sick Bay of the university.

Also, an unconfirmed report stated that the Branch Manager of the affected bank (names withheld) was shot on his legs and is re-

ceiving medical attention at an undisclosed hospital.

Confirming the incident, Commissioner of Police in the state, Elder Onuoha Udeka, told newsmen that, "We lost two policemen to bank robbery this morning at exactly 9:30 a.m. in one of the new generation banks in Amassoma.

"The victims were not attached to the bank. They were on foot patrol when they met their untimely death. It is one of the hazards of the profession.

"No arrest has been made, but we have put our men on alert especially those in riverine areas, as security reports had it that they headed towards Èkremor Local Government Area," he said.