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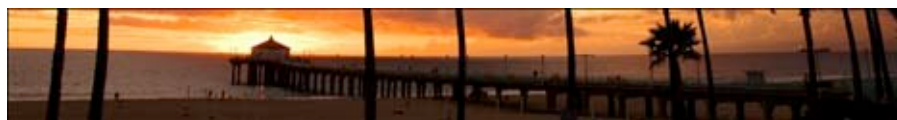
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Daily Independent (Lagos)

Nigeria: Robbers Raid Bank in Ilesa

Gbenga Faturoti And Yayoub Popoola

2 August 2011

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Jos — Dare devil armed bandits on Tuesday stormed Ilesa in Osun State and raided the Isokun branch of an old generation bank and carted away undisclosed amount of money.

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The robbers, who stormed the bank premises at around 9am, ordered everybody in the bank to lie flat on the ground.

At the end of the operation, which lasted for 25 minutes, three persons were feared dead and several others injured.

According to an eyewitness, the robbers used explosive devices to shatter the security door to gain entrance into the bank.

Moments when the device was used, there was pandemonium as everybody running helter shelter for safety.

When the security door was shattered, both staff of the bank and customers were panic as they went straight into the strong room of the bank carted away millions of naira.

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scampered for safety.

It was gathered that the armed robbers shoot sporadically and in the process, bullet hit several people, leaving three dead.

The eyewitness revealed that a mobile policeman confronted the armed robbers and engaged them in gun duel while they were trying to escape. It was learnt that the armed robbers eventually overpowered the mobile policeman.

"The armed robbers would have been stopped if that brave mobile policeman was assisted on time", a witness recounted.

A lorry load of policemen arrived the scene shortly after the robbers had left. The injured persons have been taken to Wesley Guild Hospital for treatment.

Commissioner of Police in the state, Solomon Olusegun, who confirmed the incident, said he was waiting for official briefing by the Ilesa Area Commander on the incident.

However, following report of the robbery incident, many banks were forced to close business in Ado-Ekiti, the Ekiti State capital.

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Many customers, who could not access their automated teller machines, were disappointed as the banks stopped operations without notice.

Only early callers at the banks were lucky to access cash as many, who approached the banks after 1.30pm were not attended to.

Speaking on the development, Commander of Special Anti-robbery Squad in Ekiti State, Ogbonnaya Okoronkwo, told journalists that the command got the wind of robbery operation in Ilesa in Osun State and that the banks had to act fast to prevent being caught napping by robbers.

The money carted away, it was learnt, was meant for the payment of the monthly allowance of the Osun State Youth Empowerment Scheme and other money deposited in the bank.

The robbery incident caused pandemonium in the entire town as traders at the popular Atakumosa market

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Police Public Relations Officer of the command, Jimoh Mohammed, confirmed that the robbery operation in Ilesa informed the situation.

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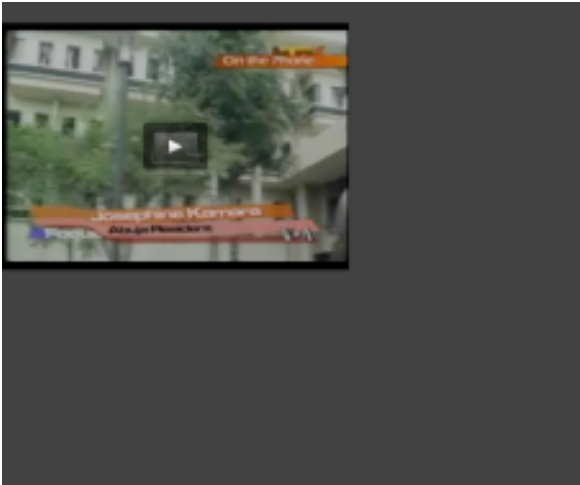
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