

Police Inspector killed as robbers strike again in Ilorin

ONE policeman, an Inspector, lost his life yesterday as armed robber struck again at one of the offices of Afribank Plc, in Ilorin, Kwara State, carting away an undisclosed sum of money believed to be in millions.

The incident, which took place at about the time muslims were observing the Friday Jumat prayers at Olanrewaju Mosque, just beside the bank along the popular Muritala Road, caused pandemonium among traders and other eyewitnesses and forced other commercial banks

■ Biodun OYELEYE, ■
Ilorin.

along the route to close their gates immediately.

Yesterday's attack came as the Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) expressed concern over what was termed the increasing wave of crime in the state and said it was ready to cooperate with the police and other security agencies in fighting the trend.

State coordinator of the group, Salami Olanrewaju said at a press conference that since its members live among the people in the community, they would be able to track

down criminals who have been hiding among them. Olanrewaju promised to make available able men from the OPC if invited by the security agencies and vowed that in less than two months the crime statistics in the state would go down.

The latest attack was the second time in less than three months Afribank would be the target of robbers in the state. The first took place early July at the bank's branch office in Offa where a police sergeant was also killed in cold blood. They were said to have pursued the policeman and shot him as he tried to escape.

Like yesterday's incident, the Offa attack also reportedly took place at about 2.00pm.

Those who carried out yesterday's robbery were said to have come in two vehicles, a Mercedes Benz and a Toyota Camry. Some eyewitness accounts claimed the robbers barricaded the entrance gate with their vehicle and moved into the banking hall where they reportedly led the Manager to the vault and carted away the loot. Others claimed that they only followed the bank's bullion van into the premises and removed the money from the van before fleeing.