

NEWS

Bank manager, policeman shot in Ondo robbery

THREE people including a bank manager and a policeman were shot yesterday when robbers struck at a bank in Ondo State.

The bank is opposite the Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko (AAUA).

The robbers, numbering about 20 stormed the bank in the morning and carted away millions of naira.

According to an eye witness, the robbers who were dressed in Army camouflage, drove in a Hiace 18-seater bus and two Mercedes Benz car.

They shot sporadically into the air to scare away people.

He said the armed robbers gained access into the bank with little or no resistance as

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the weapons they carried were superior to that of the police guard at the bank.

To facilitate their entry, the robbers shot at the police corporal guarding the bank, entered the bank and went into the manager's office.

When the manager was proving difficult, the hoodlums shot him at close range, forced open the bank's strong room and carted away an undisclosed amount of money.

A witness said the robbers made a good haul because the university staff were collecting their salaries. Also the students of the university, who had just resumed, were paying their school fees.

After the operation, they tried to escape through Oka-Akoko, the headquarters of Akoko South-West enroute Abuja.

But the escape route was blocked before they could get to the town.

They were forced to make a U-turn and passed through Ikare-Akoko to escape being

apprehended.

To facilitate their escape, they shot into the air and stray bullets hit a woman in the market.

Yesterday's incident was the third of such.

The first was at Ondo, the headquarters of Ondo West local government.

Narrating the *modus operandi*, a source said unknown to the security personnel attached to the bank, the robbers concealed their guns under *Ghana Must Go* bags and covered them with naira notes.

The security men, it was learnt, ushered the robbers into the banking hall and went straight to the office of the business manager.

Five of them entered the bank and others manned strategic positions outside.

The second happened on Tuesday when a new generation bank was attacked in Idanre. The robbers made away with cash and valuables worth millions of naira.

The Police spokesman, Mr Adeniran Aremu confirmed the incidents. He said investigations had begun and that the police were on their trail.

Aremu added that nobody was injured during the operations.