

Nine killed in Lagos, Enugu robberies

NINE persons, among them four policemen, were killed yesterday in robberies in Lagos and Enugu.

The policemen and three bank officials were killed in Enugu when robbers attacked a billion van on the Enugu-Onitsha Express road.

In Lagos, the police killed two suspected robbers who robbed a bank on the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway.

The police also recovered six AK47 rifles and over 1000 cartridges from the robbers.

Three others, including one clad in a Mobile Police uniform, were arrested. Guns boomed for over 45 minutes as members of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), Rapid Response Squad (RRS) and policemen from Area 'G' Command Ogba, Lagos engaged the robbers.

A mobile policeman and a soldier were wounded in the gun duel.

The police recovered the stolen money from the robbers. The money had been loaded in their get-away vehicles, a

From Chris Oji (Enugu),
Jude Isiguzo and Olalana
Owolabi (Lagos)

Golf car marked EL 336LRS, a Mazda car, PJ 122KJA and an Urvan bus.

The police were led by the Area 'G' Commander, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACD) Bolaji Odesanya, who was drenched in blood and the RRS Commander, Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Hakeem Odumosu.

The Nation gathered the hoodlums stormed the first generation bank around noon.

As they attempted to enter the bank, a distress call got to the Commissioner of Police, Mr M.D. Abubakar, who was then parading suspected robbers and other criminals at the Police Headquarters in Ikeja.

Abubakar ordered his men to move to the scene.

It was learnt that on arrival, the policemen went into battle with the robbers who had raided the bank and were on their way out. Two of the robbers were killed.

One of the arrested robbers

said when he ran out of ammunition, he jumped into the bank's water tank with his AK47 rifle.

After the battle, some people informed the police of his hiding place.

The Enugu robbery occurred around 11.am. when the robbers ambushed the billion van before Imezi Owa and Umuhu-Nno on the Enugu-Onitsha road.

They overpowered the security operatives and tried to escape with the money loaded inside the billion van. When they could not succeed, they set the van ablaze in annoyance.

As the robbers were out removing money from the back-up vehicle, they sighted a contingent of police approaching. They opened fire on the team, killing two policemen.

It was gathered that after the operation that held up traffic for over an hour, the underworld men entered Oji-River a nearby community, refilled their mini-bus tank and killed a petroleum attendant delaying them.