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Four dead in Ekiti bank robbery

By [Sulaiman Salawudeen, Ado-Ekiti](#) 01/06/2011 01:30:00



•One of the victims of the **bank** robbery in

.Governor lashes police

Four persons died
yesterday in a daring **bank**
robbery in Ado-Ekiti, the
Ekiti State capital.

Guns boomed and
residents rushed indoors as
the robbers shot their way

Ado-**Ekiti**, into the **bank** in Okeyinmi.

There were about 20 robbers, including two women – according to residents who claimed to have seen them. They spent nearly an hour at the **bank**, shooting sporadically.

Ten residents were injured. They included 15-year old Fasuan Samuel, Mr Francis Afolabi (75), Olumide Olusola (22), Owoyede Yusuf (23) and Ifeanyi Ukafor (25). All of them are hospitalised.

One of the injured, Fagbolagun Oluwafemi, said: "I was at Ijigbo Junction around 10 when I heard the first gunshot. I tried to run, but the bullet hit me in the leg".

Omotayo Zacheus Ajayi, an eye witness, said the robbers invaded the area about 10a.m. in a convoy of four cars, including a Toyota Hilux Van, two Hiace buses and a Hummer. They pulled down the **bank's** main gate with a dynamite and a hand-held rocket launcher.

It was a chilling sight of blood at the University Teaching Hospital where doctors, led by the Chief Medical Director, Dr. Patrick Adegun, battled to save the lives of the victims.

Another eye witness, Olaiya Olatunji, said: "I just met them at the operation. I was shot at but the bullet missed me. I want to say that we do not have police here in Ado-**Ekiti**. I rushed to Okesha Police Station but the DPO said he would not dispatch his men to the place. And none of them came. That is why we are protesting that the Ado-**Ekiti** people have been treated badly by the police."

The bodies of the deceased were deposited at the morgue of the University Teaching Hospital in the state capital.

Some police officers attached to the governor's office, led by the Senior Special Assistant on internal security to Governor Kayode Fayemi, Mr Deji Adesokan, challenge the robbers, but could not match them.

The robbers, according to

Adesokan, escaped through the Afao – Ire – Ilupeju road. One person was also reported to have been shot as the robbers escaped.

The late response from the police, who reportedly arrived at the scene about 20 minutes after the **raid**, spurred an outrage from the inhabitants of the city who made bonfires and attempted to see the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Okesa Police Station, before being dispersed by teargas launched by the police.

The protesters barricaded Okeyinmi and Okesa roads, as they advanced towards the Okesa Divisional Police Station in protest over what they called police's "gross incompetence and poor response".

Some of the buildings around the **bank** and vehicles parked at the vicinity, including a two-storey structure housing the three-bedroom flat Office of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Correspondents' Chapel and a Mercedes Benz car belonging to the local NUJ Chairman, Mr Tai Oguntayo, were riddled with bullets.

The protesters, who made bonfires, also staged another protest in the premises of the UTH in Adebayo, when some people suspected to be butchers wanted to take away the body of one of their members.

Governor Kayode Fayemi, shelved his tour of road projects around the capital. He assured residents that the government was in control of the situation.

Fayemi commiserated with the families of the deceased and promised to do all within his reach to prevent such occurrence.

He lashed the police for failing to do their job.

The governor said he might request for soldiers to consolidate the police patrol team if that would guarantee security of lives and property.

He visited the hospital to see the injured.

Police Commissioner Olayinka Balogun said some items, such as expended cartridges and a driver's licence, were recovered from the scene.