

# Gunmen kill prison official in court

• Judge's car sprayed with bullets • Court registrar shot

**I**T is like a scene from an action-packed movie.

A judge adjourns an alleged robbery and kidnapping case, ordering the suspect to be remanded in prison custody. The court rises and a prison warder

leads the accused out of the courtroom.

Suddenly, gun shots ring out. There is pandemonium, with litigants and court officials running for dear lives. By the time the dust settles minutes after, the

prison warder lies dead. Gone is the accused. Also gone are the gunman.

It was no movie, but real on Wednesday in Kogi State where unknown gunmen suspected to be members of a robbery gang

whose member was standing trial attacked the Ihima High Court.

The Media Officer of the State High Court, Mr Saqeeb Saeed, in Ihima, Okehi Local Government

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# Gunmen kill prison official, spray judge's car with bullets

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Area, confirmed yesterday that the attack took place on Wednesday.

He said Justice Moses Gwatana had adjourned the case against Abdulrazak Nasiru, who was ordered to be remanded in prison custody.

The accused was released to an official to take to the Okene Medium Security Prison in a Nigeria Prisons

Service pick-up van.

Saeed said before the van took off, the attackers, numbering between 10 and 12, apparently lurking around a primary school near the court, stormed the premises, wielding dangerous weapons and shooting indiscriminately.

"They shot dead the warder whose name was not immediately known and released the accused while the court

officials, litigants and helpless security agents, scampered for safety during the operation that lasted 10 minutes," he said.

The News Agency Nigeria (NAN) learnt that although the judge escaped unhurt, his official KIA Sorento SUV was sprayed with bullets. Mr Bakare Sunday was shot in the ear.

Saeed said the body of the prison official had been de-

posited at the Obangede General Hospital mortuary. The court registrar has been admitted in the hospital for bullet wounds.

Kogi State High Court Chief Registrar Mrs Comfort Toluwashe has lodged a complaint with the police, saying the accused was initially involved in an armed robbery in which a man was kidnapped.