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## Gunmen kill three policemen, others in bank raid

Posted by: Precious Igbonwelundu in City Beats, Featured ⌚ 13 hours ago

**It was like a movie scene. Gun-toting robbers dressed in military camouflage invaded yesterday a First City Monument Bank (FCMB) branch in Lekki, Lagos, shooting sporadically.**

Customers, motorists and road side vendors scampered for safety.

The robbers trained their guns on a police van parked beside the bank.

**The policemen fought back, but three of them were killed.**

Police spokesman, Ken Nwosu, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), confirmed casualty figure, but eyewitness **said no fewer than eight persons, including the policemen, and a banker were killed.**

Many motorists abandoned their vehicles on the Lekki-Ikoyi link bridge for dear life during the gun battle between the police and the robbers around 5pm.

The robbers were said to have entered the bank, held customers hostage and carted away a large sum of money.

Eye witnesses said on their twitter handles that the gunmen came prepared and overwhelmed the police.

One Akitayo Disa (Teeboy), who posted pictures of the robbers allegedly taken through his Hi Resolution Canon EOS 1100D, claimed that they escaped through the waterways.

He said the gunmen left after shooting sporadically for over 10 minutes and holding people hostage

"The armed men, he added, shot someone around the waterfront.

He said: "It appeared somebody got 'whacked'. Crowd gathered around the waterfront. "The guys came prepared. Car to car assassination taking place at Lekki 1, Road 14 Junction."

An eyewitness, told our correspondent on the phone that the robbers raided a bank at Lekki Phase 1 and attempted to escape through the link bridge to Ikoyi when they encountered policemen.

Another witness, Ijeoma Okolie whose office is a few metres from the bank, said more than three people were killed.

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She said the robbers escaped in a speed boat after the bank operation.

"It happened around 4:50pm or 4:55pm. We have closed for the day but we wasted about three minutes before leaving. It was while we were still waiting that we started hearing gunshots. So, we did not leave again.

"It was terrible. The armed robbers were just shooting anyhow. They killed three policemen and one other person. They took their time and it seems they have studied the area very well because they just jumped into a boat and left.

"The attack caused serious traffic on the road because most people abandoned their vehicles and ran for safety. So, for the robbers to have left through the water, it means they planned their movement thoroughly," she said.

One Oludayo said about four policemen and three civilians were killed by the robbers whose number he gave as 12.

The civilian casualty, he said, included a member of staff of the bank, a nearby fish seller and a passerby.

One Rose-Mary Motunrayo, who said she passed through the road more than an hour after the incident, described it as "really bad", adding: "May God continue to help us."

But FCMB's spokesperson, Louis Ibe said he was not aware of any attack when The Nation contacted him on telephone.

Nwosu said the robbers sustained gunshot wounds, appealing to the public to report anyone with such injuries.

He said the Commissioner of Police, Kayode Aderanti, had visited the scene, adding that investigations are on.

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