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COVER STORIES

Posted: Friday, August 31, 2007

...wreak havoc in Offa, Omu-Aran

From ALI MUHAMMAD RABIU, Ilorin

Dare-devil armed robbers struck between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning at Offa and Omu Aran respectively, both in the southern axis of Kwara State, carting away millions of Naira from the commercial bank and injuring two policemen in the process.

A similar incident had taken place mid-July in Offa during which a police sergeant was killed and millions of Naira carted away in a bloody raid on a second-generation bank in the ancient city.

Another police victim of the incident was said to have been admitted to a hospital for treatment following the critical injuries he sustained during the raid

While the latest bank robbery took place in Omu-Aran, the attack in which the policemen were injured happened in Offa.

A driver with a popular private school whose bus was snatched and used for the robbery has been arrested, according to the police, on suspicion that he might be connected with the incident. The attack would be the second time the same bus would be snatched from the same man for a similar operation, it was alleged.

Both the Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Audu Abubakar and the Transition Implementation Chairman (TIC) of Irepodun local government confirmed the Omu-Aran incident.

The robbers, including a female, were said to have first snatched the bus at Offa on Tuesday night and then went to Omu-Aran the following day where they forced the accountant of the bank to open the safe at gunpoint.

The incident, which occurred at about 8.30 am, sent the community into panic. The robbers were said to have later abandoned the bus and went away in another car.

According to the police commissioner, there was an exchange of fire between the police and the robbers but the robbers got away due to their superior fire power. They were said to have destroyed the four tyres of the police Jeep during the exchange, adding that the distress call came late to the police during the incident.

The police in Offa were said to have laid ambush for the robbers following tip-off that they were returning through that route.

A reliable source who refused to be identified in print told New Nigerian that it was in the process that the robbers injured the two policemen.

The encounter was said to have occurred along the Federal Polytechnic/Erin-Ile Road. It resulted in severe injuries for two policemen and one of them was reportedly taken to native a doctor in Erin-Ile to remove pellets supposed to have been lodged in his legs during the shoot-out.

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