

# 15 killed as robbers raid banks, police station in Offa

## We'll make full disclosure after investigation —Police

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**A**BOUT 15 people were reportedly killed, on Thursday, as a gang of robbers invaded commercial banks in Offa town in Kwara State.

The robbers, during their successful operation, carted away unspecified amount of money in different currencies.

Among victims of the incident were complainants, bank customers and market

people, including policemen.

**Nigerian Tribune** gathered that the bandits, who operated for about an hour, entered the town around 4.45 p.m. and operated till about 5.40 p.m. as they first reportedly blocked roads from both Ilorin and Osogbo ends.

The hoodlums, also reportedly made their escape through Igosun area of the town.

It was also gathered that the bandits first approached

the Offa divisional police station on entering the town, killing policeman on duty, among other people at the station, before raiding the commercial banks and killing people by shooting them on the head.

Among the policemen killed by the robbers that reportedly operated in commando style was a man identified as Pelemo, who was expected to retire in a few month and a pregnant policewoman.

An eyewitness said corps-

es of six policemen were taken away in his presence, while efforts were being made to bring out others inside the police station.

It was also gathered that the bandits, came in different vehicles as they stationed themselves at strategic areas of the town, as it was reported that they also snatched commercial motorcycles to aid their escape.

It was learnt that the general hospital, Offa, where the injured victims were taken, was already over-populated

by those who secured varying degrees of injuries.

Another eyewitness, Olawale Adegoke, confirmed that the robbers started operation around 4.50 p.m. and drove away at about 5.45 p.m.

As of the time of filing this report, three dead bodies were seen in a bank, including a policeman, while there was no casualty in three other banks raided.

Two dead bodies were also seen in another bank area, two civilian dead bod-

ies, one in front of Post Office, another in front of a Catholic Church and about 10 dead bodies in various offices within Owode police station (civilians and policemen inclusive).

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ajayi Okasanmi, said victims included policeman and other individuals.

He said details on the bank robbery would be made after a full investigation into the incident.