

# 50 robbers attack bank, police kill two, arrest one

**Kunle Adeyemi**

**A**FTER about a month "holiday," about 50 armed robbers, on Thursday, invaded the branch of a first generation bank on Kofo Abayomi Street, Apapa, Lagos, causing pandemonium in the area.

The men, who came in a coaster bus and a jeep, reportedly arrived on the scene of attack at about 12 midnight and immediately set to work after placing themselves in strategic positions.

It was learnt that the robbers had operated for about two hours before the arrival of the police, but the police said they received distress calls on the attack five minutes after the robbers arrived.

The robbers went to the scene with house-breaking implements like sledge hammers, gas cylinders and assorted weapons.

Our correspondent learnt that when the police got the information, anti-robbery squad from the state Criminal Investigation Department, Panti, Yaba, moved to the scene in an armoured personnel carrier.

The men from the SCID were supported by policemen attached to the Apapa division.

A gun battle ensued immediately the police APC got to the robbery scene. The robbers, it was learnt, fired hundreds of gunshots at the police but to no avail.

When it dawned on them that their weaponry was no match for the APC, the robbers attempted to escape in their bus, but the APC crushed

both the bus and the jeep.

The firing continued and one of the robbers was killed; the corpse of another was found a few metres away from the shooting scene.

Another member of the robbery gang, who had been immobilised by the gunshot injury he sustained, was arrested and taken to the SCID.

Spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, a superintendent of police, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on Thursday.

Ojajuni said the robbery attack was successfully foiled as the police got to the scene before the robbers could gain access to the bank's vault.

He said three sledgehammers, a Pathfinder jeep, a coaster bus, seven gas cylin-

ders, two AK-47 rifles, eight magazines and 500 expended ammunition were recovered from the scene of the robbery.

While many other members of the gang escaped on foot, some reportedly with bullet wounds, the captured robber was immediately taken to a clinic for medical treatment.

Ojajuni said it was important for the police to ensure the safety of the suspect in order to get more facts about his escaped colleagues from him.

The Commissioner in charge of the command, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo, told our correspondent that with the acquisition of the APCs, there would be no room for bank robbers to operate any longer in the state.

## Truck crushes mother, child, three others to death

**Chukwudi Akasike, Uyo**

**A**TRUCK belonging to a construction company, on Thursday, crushed a young woman, her baby and three others to death on the Uyo-Abak Road, Uyo.

The truck marked Akwa Ibom XB 259 UYY, was said to have had a break failure.

Others, who lost their lives in the accident, were two commercial motorcycle riders and a passenger.

The vehicle, which had a crane at its back, ran over the two motorcyclists while trying to avoid a head-on collision with a vehicle.

Our correspondent gathered that one of the passers-

by, who was also hit by the truck, was rushed to a hospital in a critical condition.

An eyewitness, who identified himself as Ntia, told our correspondent that the truck tried to stop at the instance of the policeman on duty but lost control in the process.

He said, "The driver tried to stop but couldn't when his break failed and to avoid causing multiple accidents, he diverted to the right junction and in the process crushed two okada riders.

"The passengers on one of the motorcycles were a young woman with her baby who was about one-and-a-half-year old."

However, the intervention of heavily-armed policemen prevented hundreds of okada riders, who thronged the scene, from setting the truck ablaze.

The Officer-in-Charge of 'C' Division Police Station in the state, Mr. Augustine Arop, told our correspondent that the police were at the scene of the accident to rescue the victims.

Arop said the windscreen of the truck had been smashed by angry commercial motorcycle riders before his men came to the scene.

"For now, I cannot give you any information on the cause of the accident. We are only trying to rescue the victims and their property. We still have to investigate the matter before any information can be given," Arop said.

As at the time of filing this report, one of the two motorcycles involved in the accident was still under the truck.

## One killed, 20 injured in Osogbo violence

**Tunde Odesola, Osogbo**

**O**NE person was shot dead and about 20 others injured during an outbreak of violence at the headquarters of the Osogbo Local Government Council, Osogbo, on Thursday.

Our correspondent learnt that the violence broke out after the council's legislators requested the Chairman, Alhaji Liadi Gbadamosi, to give a breakdown of the 2007 budget to the legislative council.

It was gathered that Gbadamosi was on the way to the 15-member legislative council chamber when some hoodlums descended on the secretariat.

One of Gbadamosi's aides, simply called Isiaka, was shot in the chest by the hoodlums and he died when he was being rushed to Osun State Hospital, Asubiaro, Osogbo.

One of the hoodlums, who was arrested by some council workers, has been handed over to the police.

Gbadamosi, who spoke with our correspondent, said that the legislators had resorted to violence after he turned down their request to be given N300,000 each.

He said, "Last April, I gave them N22,100,000m to procure 13 300kva transformers; they bought the transformers but did not install them.

"I also approved N15m for them to sink boreholes; only seven of the boreholes are working now."

Efforts to get the reaction of the legislators proved abortive as none of them was ready to speak on the issue.

Police Public Relations Officer, Osun State Command, Mr. Joshua Olayemi, confirmed the incident, saying that investigations had commenced.