

City CRIME

Robbers raid bank, kill two security men

Kunle Adeyemi

A gang of armed robbers, in the early hours of Wednesday, took residents of Sango-Otta in Ogun State by surprise when they besieged a commercial bank (name withheld) in the erstwhile peaceful community.

Although there was no official confirmation of the damage done to the bank, our correspondent learnt that the robbers made away with an unspecified amount of money from the vaults.

While trying to escape arrest, the robbers also killed two persons believed to be officials of a private security company.

The robbers, numbering about 10, were said to have arrived at the bank's premises at about 2am.

As soon as they came, the robbers reportedly overpowered the security guards they met at the bank and tied their hands to their backs.

The robbers were said to have operated for hours unhindered before a police patrol team appeared on the scene.

The policemen, it was learnt, were soon sent away from the robbery scene by the superior firepower of the armed robbers.

Our correspondent gathered that the robbers operated till early hours of Wednesday

when the private security men obliviously ran into them.

The security men were in a brown Toyota Hilux van belonging to Arksego Security and with registration number DY 724 SMK. They were said to be on their way to Lagos.

It is believed that the robbers, who could not see clearly at the time of the incident, thought that policemen occupied the van and they promptly fired them.

One of the bullets pierced the vehicle's windshield and hit the driver who was found dead on the steering wheel. Another person was said to have been killed during the shootout.

Policemen who later came to the scene at dawn removed the corpses to a public mortuary.

By 7am, people going to their different work places and other sympathisers had converged on the spot bemoaning the early morning tragedy.

Spokesman for the Ogun State Police Command, Mr. Femi Awoyale, who spoke with our correspondent on the telephone, said the command was still gathering information on the robbery attack.

"I cannot really confirm the incident now, but I will get back to you as soon as we get the detailed information on the incident," Awoyale said.

There was, however, no proof that any of the robbery suspects was arrested.

A similar incident happened in Apapa, Lagos last week; but the robbers were confronted with Armoured Personnel Carrier and two of them were killed in the process.

LG crisis: Councillor arrested with gun

Tunde Odesola, Osogbo

A fresh twist, on Tuesday, crept into the violent crisis engulfing the Osogbo Local Government Council when the police arrested a councillor with a gun.

Commissioner of Police, Osun State Command, Mr. Sulamion Fakai, in an exclusive interview with our correspondent, on Wednesday, confirmed the development.

He said 14 other members of the council's legislature had fled even as he declared a manhunt for the fleeing councillors.

The police boss said, "We shall get them all. They have their families here in Osun.

"They know what they have done and that's why they are on the run. We are determined to rid the state of any form of politi-

cal violence. We'll track them down one by one."

It will be recalled that a bloody clash ensued at the council, last Thursday, when hoodlums swooped on the secretariat and caused mayhem.

A faction shot one Isiaka, an aide to the council's chairman, Chief Liadi Gbadamosi.

Isiaka died on the way to the hospital. Fakai said investigations by the command showed that the councillors engineered the crisis by inviting hoodlums into the secretariat to cause mayhem.

Gbadamosi, who was sacked along with the councillors by the state government, on Friday, has reported to the police.

He was interrogated by detectives at the state Criminal Investigation Bureau, Ayetoro, Osogbo, on Friday and was released on Saturday.