

# Robbers raid bank, kill three policemen

**Kunle Adeyemi**

**F**OUR days after a gang of armed robbers snatched a bullion van and killed two policemen in Lagos, another group of bandits have killed three more policemen.

The incident happened at Ejigbo on the outskirts of Lagos, where the robbers went to raid a branch of the Oceanic Bank.

This happened on a day the Lagos State Police Command paraded about 30 armed robbery suspects and 95 girls raided from brothels.

The bank robbers, numbering over 20, were said to have besieged the bank at midnight on Thursday.

Although the amount carted away from the bank's vaults was not known as at press time, it was learnt that a distress call sent to the police brought a team of anti-robbery policemen to the scene.

Three of the policemen were killed in a gun battle that ensued just as the other policemen retreated when they were overwhelmed by the robbers' firepower.

A reinforcement of security men was ordered from the police headquarters but the robbers had fled before more policemen arrived on the robbery scene with their Armoured Personnel Carrier.

The Commissioner, Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Mohammed Abubakar, while parading other groups of suspects, lamented the brutal end of the policemen and prayed that God should grant them eternal rest.

Abubakar, who appeared before the Lagos State House of Assembly three days ago to explain what his command has been doing to curb the wave of crime in the state, had told the

legislators that dearth of transportation and communication facilities militated largely against his men's operation.

Four of the paraded suspects were members of a gang that robs motorists on Lagos/Ibadan Expressway by planting nails and other sharp objects on the road.

Once a motorist runs into the objects and gets a deflated tyre, the robbers will swoop on him while he is busy fixing the car.

During interview with our correspondent, some of the suspects claimed to be innocent, but admitted that a friend invited them for an undisclosed engagement.

The female suspects raided

from brothels in Agege and Idimu areas of the state were believed to be accomplices to the male suspects because some of the robbers hide in their brothel rooms after committing crime.

Abubakar noted that the girls, with ages ranging from 14 to 28, were victims of child trafficking, who were later exposed to prostitution by their mistresses.

He wondered what a 14-year-old girl could be doing in a brothel and promised that the owners of the brothel would be prosecuted.

The CP said during the week, his men killed three suspected robbers, arrested 18, recovered nine guns and raided 1,955 suspected miscreants.

## Robbery: Two policemen, others killed in Ibadan, Okigwe

**Fidelis Soriwei and  
Akin Oyedele**

**M**EN of the Imo State Police Command on Thursday foiled robbery attempts on two commercial banks (Oceanic and Zenith Banks) in Okigwe, Imo State.

The Commissioner of Police in charge of the command, Mr. Donald Iroham, said although the robbers were chased away by his men, an innocent girl was killed by the retreating robbers who also lost a member of their gang during a shootout with the police.

Similarly, two policemen were killed while two others were injured on Thursday in Ibadan, when a seven-man gang attacked the Bodija branch of the Skye Bank.

The robbers were said to have arrived at the bank at 9am and shot at the unsuspecting policemen guarding the bank at close range before proceeding into

the banking hall where they carted away undisclosed sum of money.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police at the state command, Mr. Olaturunji Caulrick, who confirmed the incident, said his men were trailing the fleeing robbers.

In the Okigwe case, the commissioner said the robbers who abandoned their mission, fled towards the direction of Ebonyi State.

Iroham also displayed the bloodstained body of a robbery suspect alongside two other members of the gang at the police headquarters. The suspects were apprehended at Attah in Ikeduru Local Government area of the state on Thursday.

He said the suspects whose names were given as Goddy from Abia, Kabaka and Chiwendu from Umuduru in Imo State, were arrested in a Mercedes Benz 190 with registration number Enugu BB 158 Enu, adding that ownership of the car had not been ascertained.