

Robbers raid bureau de change, kill two

Kunle Adeyemi

At least, two persons were killed in Lagos on Thursday when a gang of armed robbers attacked and raided a bureau de change at Adelabu Street, Surulere.

Besides, one other person believed to be one of the bureau de change operators, sustained serious injury during the attack and was rushed to a hospital.

Our correspondent learnt that the 15-man gang besieged the bureau de change at about 11am in an unregistered white Toyota Hiace bus and pretended to be genuine customers.

They had reportedly asked the operators if they had an unspecified but large amount of foreign currency which they intended to exchange for naira notes.

The bureau de change operators, it was learnt, told the men that although they did not have such amount but they could gather more money from their colleagues, whose businesses are located in the same area.

The operators did as promised and collected money from their colleagues to balance whatever amount demanded by the "customers."

While the bureau de change operators were busy sourcing the money, their "customers" were strategising and repositioning themselves for their real intention.

Immediately the men were told that the money was ready, some of them quickly drew their guns and began to fire in a bid to scare the operators away.

While this was going on, other members of the gang packed all the money into a polythene bag and immediately left the premises of the bureau de change.

A distress call was sent to the police, but the robbers had perpetrated the act and were almost gone before the arrival of the security men.

Our correspondent learnt that although the police made an attempt to chase the robbers, the hoodlums escaped through the Lagos University Teaching Hospital.

During the commotion that followed the escape bid of the robbers, two persons were said to have been felled by bullets. It was not clear, however, whether the police's or the robbers' bullets killed the men.

Foreign ministry probes death of Nigerian in Greece

Oluwole Josiah, Abuja

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said it has dispatched a consular officer from its embassy in Athens to Thessaloniki to help in resolving the circumstances that led to the death of a Nigerian immigrant in Greece.

It also said it was making efforts to identify the relations of the dead Nigerian, even though the actual identity of the man was unclear.

Spokesman for the

ministry, Mr. Ayo Olukanmi, told our correspondent on Thursday that the ministry had swung into action to ensure that the problem was resolved with the government of Greece.

The Nigerian, whose identity was yet to be ascertained, was said to have died after jumping from the first floor of a cafeteria to avoid police arrest.

Reports had it that the 25-year-old man was selling pirated CDs and DVDs in a cafeteria in a suburb of Thessaloniki when two men