

Robbers attack bank in Zaria, kill seven

Segun Olatunji, Kaduna

ARMED robbers on Thursday attacked a branch of the United Bank for Africa Plc, located opposite the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, North Gate, killing seven people and carting away yet-to-be-ascertained amount of money.

Our correspondent learnt that the robbers (five men and a lady), might have targetted the money meant for the payment of Army pensioners.

It was also learnt that almost all the seven victims of the robbery, including the manager of Daula Restaurant situated two buildings away from the bank, were innocent passers-by.

None of the bank workers was however killed, our correspondent learnt.

According to eyewitnesses, the robbery started at about 11:30 am when the six robbers arrived at the bank in two Mercedes Benz cars, one Benz 190 and one Benz 200 V-Boot.

A student who witnessed the robbery said, "They stationed their members at both ends of the road leading to Funtua and Zaria to control the traffic, while the Mercedes V-Boot which had two people in it, including the lady, was moving to-and-fro the junction in front of the bank.

"The other car was parked inside the premises. All the robbers, including those on the road and those in the cars were carrying sophisticated weapons which they kept on firing sporadically to scare away people.

"The robbery lasted for more than one hour during which the whole area was deserted but after the incident, they drove away towards the town still shooting. They must have carted away lots of money as the Mercedes V-Boot

car's rear sagged under the heavy load of the money stolen from the bank."

Another student who was inside the restaurant when the robbery took place, explained that the restaurant manager who was killed by the robbers was running towards the restaurant to tell the staff to lock up when a bullet hit him.

a detachment of policemen that visited the scene after the robbers had escaped was mobbed by the angry students for their poor and late reaction. They were, however, rescued from further harassment from the students by some members of the community.

Some hours after the robbery, detachments of soldiers and policemen were seen at the junction, controlling traffic while others were seen in front and around the bank cordoning off the area.

The Police Public Relations

...also kill accountant in Ogun

Niyi Odebode, Abeokuta

NO fewer than two banks have been raided by a ten-man robbery gang in Ijebu-Igbo and Ilisan areas of Ogun State.

Our correspondent learnt that an accountant, Kola Oyetoro, was killed when robbers attacked the Ijebu-Igbo branch of Skye Bank.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr. Olufemi Awoyale, confirmed the robbery at Ilisan. He, however, insisted that the one at Ijebu-Igbo was foiled by the police.

Sources said the robbers, who arrived at the Ijebu-Igbo bank at 2pm, locked the hall and other offices of the bank, which is opposite the Ijebu-North Local Government secretariat.

The sources added that the robbers insisted on getting the key to the strong room after dispossessing

Officer, Kaduna State Command, Mr. Aminu Lawan Aliyu, when contacted on the telephone, said he was yet to get the details of the robbery and could not speak on it yet.

"You know we are hosting a seminar for the IG, the DIGs, the AIGs, the CPs and other top ranking officers of the Nigerian Police in Kaduna, so I'm not in a position to speak to you about the robbery incident; you can contact me tomorrow. Then I will be able to confirm it," he said.

Our correspondent however learnt that some of those killed in the robbery attack had been buried according to Islamic rites, while the bodies of the other victims had been deposited at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Shika.

Those injured have also been taken to the teaching hospital.

bank officials and customers of their cellphones and money.

The hoodlums, who sources said, successfully entered the strong room, allegedly carted away money in two Ghana-must-Go bags.

The accountant, our correspondent gathered, was shot in a bid by the robbers to force their way to the strong room.

Police sources said after carrying out their operation at Ijebu-Igbo, the hoodlums headed for Ilisan, where they raided Wema Bank at Babcock University.

At Babcock, the robbers were said to have carted away money from the bank's strong room and snatched handsets from people in the bank.

It will be recalled that two policemen were killed when armed robbers raided the Asero, Abeokuta branch of Afribank two months ago.