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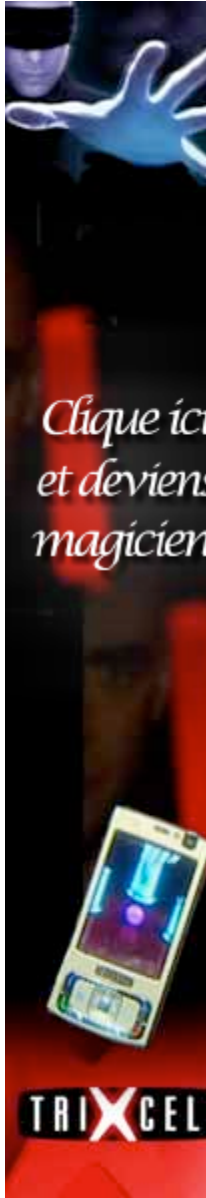
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Wednesday, December 17, 2008

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How we attacked Osun banks -Suspect

By Tunde Odesola, Osogbo

Two madmen were killed by the six-member rampaging armed robbery gang that stormed banks in Ile-Ife, Osun State, on Monday.

The development came just as one of the robbery suspects, Babatunde Babalola, claimed to be a teacher in a public secondary school.

A small bag containing cocaine; 1,400 rounds of ammunition and 13 magazines, 120 ATM cards and about N200,000 were recovered from the robbers.

Investigations by our correspondent, in Osogbo, on Tuesday revealed that three of the robbers left with their loot despite sustaining injuries.

The 'deputy leader' of the gang, Alhaji Taofeek Mustapha, who allegedly sold vehicles in Ibadan, was killed in the shootout with a vigilant group and policemen while two of them were arrested.

Babalola claimed to be an Economics teacher at Aiyedun Grammar School, Labata town, Ife-South. But his claim was refuted by a 27-year-old member of the gang, Julius Adewuyi.

According to Adewuyi, "We resorted to the use of axes to break open the bulletproof bank doors when we couldn't get access into

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the bank after shooting at the door.



"With the axes, we broke into the bank and made for the vault, where we filled some Ghana-Must-Go (jute bags). I monitored the action from a bus outside the bank.

"One of the gang leaders called me on phone to run away when some of them were overpowered. I was running away when the police caught me."

Adewuyi said the gang was responsible for the recent spate of robberies in Ibadan, Oyo State, adding that Babalola was responsible for keeping the armoury of the gang.

Babalola, who claimed he partook in stealing from the loot of the robbers from an abandoned jeep, said that he was not a robber, insisting that he was arrested because he went near the robbers' abandoned jeep.

"Were you not the one, who stuffed guns and ammunition into the seat of the bus yesterday morning while I washed the bus?, Adewuyi queried Babalola.

A young man, Jephtah Ekeh, who allegedly attempted to steal a phone forgotten in the banking hall by one of the robbers, was also paraded by the police on Tuesday in Osogbo.

Confessing that the gang was responsible for the killing of policemen in raids on banks in Ibadan two weeks ago, Adewuyi said he was recently recruited by the gang as a driver.

According to Adewuyi, who claimed to hail from Modakeke, Osun State the gang took time out to chant incantations and smoke marijuana before embarking on an operation.

Meanwhile, the Osun State Governor, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, has visited victims of the armed robbery attacks on banks in Ile-Ife, just as he condoled with the families of those who lost their lives in the attack.

In another development, no fewer than four persons, including a middle-aged woman, were killed on Monday afternoon when armed robbers invaded a cold room located in Lafenwa, Abeokuta, Ogun State.

About 20 persons, including a police inspector, were injured during the raid in which the suspects reportedly made away with over N1m.

Police sources said the injured are currently receiving treatment at different hospitals in the town.

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