

Robbers raid Intercontinental Bank, kill two

**Kunle Adeyemi and
Ehi Emhonyon**

A gang of armed robbers attacked the Intercontinental Bank branch at Ibafo on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway on Tuesday.

Two persons, including a policeman, were reportedly shot dead in a gun battle that ensued after the robbery.

The bank is located beside the Ibafo Police Station.

Our correspondents, who visited the scene around 3pm on Tuesday, observed that most residents in the neighbourhood were still jittery as a result of the attack.

It was learnt that an unidentified man, who visited the police station to effect the bail of a friend, also got killed in the cross-fire.

An eyewitness told our correspondents that the robbers, numbering about 15, besieged the bank at about noon.

It could not, however, be confirmed at press-time the amount of money that was stolen from the bank.

The robbers were said to

have gone to the bank in a Coaster bus, led by a woman who allegedly blocked the highway, wielding a rifle.

A security man at the bank's entrance was said to have sustained a gunshot injury and was later rushed to a hospital.

The witness said, "After the robbers came out of the bank, we just saw them firing into the police station.

"They were shooting at the

police station, probably in an attempt to escape without being challenged.

"After they left, people gathered at the bank and the police station and there we saw the lifeless bodies of the two men."

When contacted, the Public Relations Officer, Ogun State Police Command, Mr. Muiyiwa Adejobi, said he had not received an official statement on the robbery from the police

division in the area.

He, however, told one of our correspondents on the telephone that, "I have not received the signal, but I heard that about 15 armed robbers attacked the bank.

"I cannot confirm whether they had access to the bank's vault, but policemen later engaged them. I can confirm to you, however, that nobody was killed, but two persons were injured."

Three die as Navy, pirates clash in Calabar

Mike Odiegwu, Calabar

A bloody clash between pirates and the Nigerian Navy on Monday in a creek of the Little Kwa River, Calabar, Cross River state has left three of the bandits dead.

Our correspondent learnt that the pirates believed to be members of the Bakassi Freedom Fighters were intercepted by a patrol team of the Nigerian Navy NNS Victory on a routine patrol of the waterways.

The Navy also rounded up one Godday Isaac, a former

assistant to the leader of BFF, General Franklin, and recovered two AK-47 rifles and one speed boat.

The patrol team was said to have confronted the pirates at about 2pm on Monday.

The Commanding Officer of NNS Victory, Commodore Gabriel Adebayo, confirmed to our correspondent that the naval patrol team was attacked on Monday while on routine patrol in the creeks of Little Kwa River, off Calabar River.

He said a cross fire that ensued in the process left three of

the suspected ex-militants dead.

But, he regretted that the remains of the victims were immediately removed by the fleeing pirates, who were said to have abandoned one speed boat and two AK-47 rifles.

Adebayo said an amnesty identity card was found on the arrested former aide to the BFF leader during the operation.

He also regretted increasing cases of crimes which he attributed to some militants who had been granted amnesty by the federal government.