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## Four killed as gunmen cart away N84m in Delta

By Emmanuel Addeh, Asaba

Friday, 20 May 2011

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Four persons were confirmed dead and eight others seriously injured on Thursday when suspected armed robbers stormed four new generation banks in Kwale, Delta State late on Wednesday.

The armed men numbering 25, according to the Police, also carted away over N84m, belonging to Unity , Oceanic, Zenith and Skye banks in Amai.

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During the robbery which lasted for hours, two of the bandits were also gunned down by the police while others escaped with bullet wounds through the Ogume-Obiaruku road.

The bandits, who arrived the town in a black Toyota Camry, a Four Runner Jeep, a Space wagon and a bus belonging to Delta Line, were said to have used dynamite and other sophisticated weapons during the operation.

A school teacher, a young girl and four others who were among those hit by stray bullets during a cross-fire between the armed men and policemen , were said to have been rushed to undisclosed hospitals for treatment.

The incident caused serious panic in the town as traders and shop owners quickly locked their stalls and scampered for safety.

Three AK 47 rifles, 20 AK 47 live ammunition, 33 empty magazines, dynamite, N4.65m, two wristwatches, and brands of condoms were recovered from the gunmen by the police.

While displaying the almost N4.7m at the Police Headquarters on Okpanam Road, Asaba, the Commissioner of Police in the state, Mamman Tsafe, described the gang as “vicious and audacious.”

Tsafe, who said that the police ambushed the robbers along Amai and Nsukwa roads, explained that one of the bandits was shot dead at Amai.

The police boss added that at Nsukwa, another member of the gang was killed , while others scampered into the bush with bullet wounds.

The CP also confirmed that in their bid to escape, the robbers started shooting indiscriminately, killing two members of the public and wounding eight others.

Meanwhile, the Abraka branch Manager of Unity Bank for Africa, Lawrence Iriogbe, who was kidnapped on Monday at Okpala Waterside along Benin/Abraka road has regained his freedom.

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The CP explained that Iriogbe was rescued by a patrol team in an uncompleted building in Ugolo where he was chained.

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