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Bandits raid bank with grenades in Osun

By Tunde Odesola, Osogbo

Wednesday, 3 Aug 2011

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Early morning customers, who visited the [First Bank](#) branch located in Isokun area of Ilesa, got more than they bargained for on Tuesday when they were held hostage by armed robbers for 45 minutes.

A thunderous hail of gunshots heralded the visit of the robbers at about 9.45am and this was followed by deafening bangs that shook the entire bank, which was opened last year.

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An official of a private security outfit, who witnessed the robbery, said he could not do anything because he was not armed.

He said, "I watched them clearly. I saw their faces, where I hid. At a time, I had to pull off my uniform. A pregnant woman was hit by a bullet.

"They sprayed bullets at first. After that died down, they threw their hand grenades at the bulletproof door of the bank which shattered under the force of the dynamites. After the door had been pulled down, they gained entry and began their operation.

"They appeared well trained; they cut the clips of the grenades with their mouths, threw them at the door and lay down on the floor. After a grenade goes off, they will throw another and lay on the floor to avoid being rocked by the blasts.

"When they were escaping, there was a white bus in middle and some of them rode on motorcycles in front and at the back of the bus. They were three on each motorcycle. They shot as they were speeding away."

A customer, who was in the bank, also gave a vivid detail of what occurred inside the bank.

The customer, who spoke with our correspondent on the telephone, said she was in the bank to collect a part of her salary.

She said, "The first thing we heard was sporadic gunshots which shattered the glass and windows of the bank. We all lay on the floor. I was shivering and praying because I felt the end had come.

"They were all young boys, smartly dressed and speaking good English. They ordered everybody to lie on the floor. I obeyed even before they gave the order and I closed my eyes. I later opened my eyes.

"They were ordering the bank officials around and threatening to kill them if they behave funny. They carted money away in Ghana must go bags."

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Riot policemen arrived the scene shortly after the robbers had fled through [Ilesa-Oboko roundabout](#) and this enraged some residents, who attacked the policemen.

One of the policemen was wounded and held hostage by the residents and it took a reinforcement of policemen for him to be rescued.

The situation took a dramatic turn when policemen engaged some of the residents, especially commercial motorcycle operators in a free-for-all.

A source said some of the residents sustained gunshot injuries in the clash with the police.

A bank official, who spoke under the condition of anonymity, explained that the money in the bank's vault was insured. "This is the practice with funds in the bank," the official said.

Commissioner of Police, Osun Command, Mr Solomon Olusegun, in a telephone interview, said there was no casualties in the attack.

Comments :

- Do we say we have lost confidence in Nigerian Police. Each time there is robbery anywhere, Police usually comes when the robbers must have finished & left as if they were in collaberation. Bank robbery is now everyday business, yet no solution but these policemen are more interested in policing Naira from the palms of commercial drivers. No wonder Boko Haram butchered them like goats due to lack of focus. May GOD help us.

Posted by: Sunny W.Nwangwu , on Wednesday, August 03, 2011

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- Going forward, It should be mandatory that banks and buildings built in their vicinity have CCTV cameras installed and manned by nigerian police. Such nonsense.



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