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Robbers storm bank in Rivers varsity, kill two

MARCH 7, 2015 BY CHUKWUDI AKASIKE 2 COMMENTS

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Two persons were shot dead by daredevil armed robbers who engaged the police in fierce gun battle in Port Harcourt on Friday.

The armed robbers had trailed a bullion van carrying a huge sum of money into the United Bank of Africa located inside the Rivers State University of Science and Technology.

It was gathered that the hoodlums, who came in a Toyota Sienna car, open fire immediately the money was brought out from the bullion van, even as the two police escort tried in vain to fight back.

While armed robbers seized two Ghana-must-go bags apparently filled with cash and forced their way out of the RSUST premises, one person was killed and five persons seriously injured in the process.

Saturday PUNCH gathered that the armed robbers, who shot sporadically as they tried to leave the scene, escaped through the back gate leading to the university.

The incident, which happened at about 3.30 pm forced motorists and passers-by to scamper for safety, just as shop owners closed for the day to avoid being attacked by the hoodlums.

Not done with their shooting spree, the robbers numbering about six, who were now being chased by a group of policemen, drove through Iloabuchi and entered Nsukka Street in Mile One, Diobu axis of Port Harcourt, still firing.

Residents ran into their houses as they heard the deafening sound of gunshots, while taxi drivers abandoned their vehicles in their makeshift park located on Nsukka Street.

"The armed robbers were fearless. They entered the State University of Science and Technology, went straight to the bullion van and open fire. One person was killed instantly while five persons that were injured were rushed to the hospital.






"It is shocking that armed robbers can operate successfully inside the campus and go scot-free. What we are talking about happened around 3.30pm. They came in through the main gate and left through the back gate of the university. The bank locked their customers inside during the attack," an eyewitness told our correspondent.

While the police tried to get hold of the hoodlums, they manoeuvred and climbed the Mile One flyover where they shot and killed a motorist before taking away his sports utility vehicle.

It was learnt that armed robbers had a flat tyre as a result of the gunshot

The Public Relations Officer of the RSUST, Mr. Desmond Wosu, confirmed that one person was killed while five others were seriously injured when armed robbers raided the university.

Speaking on the incident, the State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ahmad Mohammad, said the armed robbers swooped on a bullion van conveying an undisclosed cash belonging to a bank customer.

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Mohammad explained that the hoodlums were engaged in a gun battle by the police, who gave them (robbers) a hot chase.

"Sensing policemen were getting close to them, they (robbers) jettisoned the operation and abandoned their operational vehicle, including an unspecified amount of money in locked bags. They escaped after robbing a vehicle from a motorist," he said.

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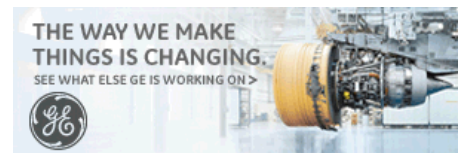
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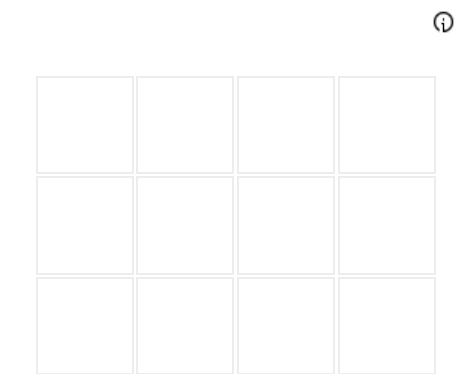
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