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Two killed in Osun robbery attack

Femi Makinde, Osogbo

WO persons were reportedly shot dead when a gang of armed robbers invaded a branch of Wema Bank at Ibokun in the Obokun Local Government Area of Osun State.

Our correspondent gathered on Thursday that the armed robbers stormed the bank around 6pm on Tuesday after the bank had been closed to customers.

It was learnt that the robbers blew the door to the bank open with dynamite and went inside the banking hall to operate without hindrance.

The robbers reportedly removed the Automated Teller Machine on the premises of the bank and went away with it.

A resident of the town, who pleaded not to be named, told our correspondent that one of the security guards at the bank was among those killed.

He added that the other victim was a resident, who was hit by the robbers' bullets.

The resident said, "They came around 6pm and they first went to the police station and fired some bullets there. I learnt that the policemen on duty fled. They were not in a hurry because they spentalmost two hours.

"The armed robbers went to the bank and riddled it with shots. We were told that they went away with some money. One of the security men at the bank was killed. A resident of the area was also killed."

Another resident, who identified himself simply as Stephen, added that the hoodlums must have been informed by an insider before they invaded the bank.

He said everywhere in the town was deserted as the robbers took over and shot sporadically into the air.

Stephen also said the robbers spent more than one hour to carry out their operation.

The Director of Publicity of the Peoples Democratic Party in Osun State, Mr. Diran Odeyemi, who is an indigene of Ibokun, said it was worrisome that robbers could invaded a community and operate for two hours without any challenge from security agencies despite the huge amount of money the state government said it spent on procuring security equipment for the police.

Odeyemi said, "The amount of money this government claimed it spent on security should be investigated. The robbers came and operated for over two hours without any challenge from the security agents. We learnt that the policemen at the station fled."

The Police Public Relations Officer in Osun State, Mrs. Folasade Odoro, said, "Case under investigation."



· Gbemisola, (Inset) One of the