Robbers attack Ondo, Abia filling stations, kill guard

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Suspected armed robbers killed a security official on duties at a Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation filling station along the Akure-Owo Expressway in Akure, Ondo State, in the early hours of Monday.

Also on Sunday, suspected robbers attacked Forte Oil Filling Station in Umuahia, Abia State, making away with cash and valuables.

The security guard at the NNPC filling station identified as Moses was reportedly shot dead after the hoodlums had attacked him with a machete.

A source said, "We noticed that after killing the guard, the armed robbers forcefully gained entrance to the main offices of the petrol station by destroying a burglary proof and some iron doors."

However, the amount of money stolen by the robbers was not disclosed, but it was learnt they destroyed some items including the CCTV camera.

One of the fuel attendants at the station, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "We came to work this morning (Monday) only to discovered that some people had attacked our filling station.

"We also noticed blood by the side of the station and discovered that the security guard had been killed while his torch was still on. The robbers broke into the office of the manager and destroyed things inside the place. While looking for money, they ransacked everywhere in the office."

A resident of the area, who identified himself as Ige, said,"We woke up this morning (Monday) to discover that the NNPC filling station had been robbed and one of the security guards killed. The operation must have been carried out silently because we didn't hear any sound of gunshots or cry of the guard or any sound."

Spokesman for the police in the state, Femi Joseph, who confirmed the incident, said they had begun investigation into the matter.

According to a lady fuel attendant at the Umuahia filling station close to Government House, three men in an ash colour Honda around 9am, pretending to buy N2,000 fuel.

She said two of the men suddenly brought out their guns and ordered her to lead them to the office, where they collected more than N70,000 and the N12,000.00 in her pocket.

She added that the hoodlums collected their phones and left after beating them.

Lamenting the incident, the General Manager of the filling station, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the filling station had been attacked by robbers four times this year.

The state Commissioner of Police, Ene Okon, who confirmed the incident, said they had launched a manhunt for the robbers.