

Good Afternoon! Thursday September 06, 107

2 cops, passerby feared killed as robbers invade banks in Lagos

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Thursday, September 6, 2007

Armed robbers went on the loose at the Anthony area of Lagos yesterday, killing two policemen and another person as they attempted to rob two new generation banks.

The bandits were said to have opened fire on sighting policemen, who were stationed at the banks.

A gun battle ensued that saw the killing of the two policemen and the civilian. A passerby claimed that several people were injured by the robbers, who continued to shoot sporadically in their bid to escape.



•Mike Okiro

Photo: Sun News Publishing

Commercial activities were brought to a halt while motorists abandoned their vehicles on the highway to take cover. The incident also

coincided with another in Onitsha, Anambra State where robbers, dressed in camouflag army uniforms and police uniforms held the business community in the commercial city hostage.

Speaking about the Lagos incident, Deputy Police spokesman, Frank Mba, said there was no robbery. He revealed that only two policemen were injured by the robbers' bullets. The two cops he said, had been taken to the nearest hospital.

Mba explained that the robbery operation was foiled after police got a tip-off that the bandits were likely to strike yesterday. Working on the information, policemen and patrol teams had been stationed around the targetted areas.

He said: "We were able to police them and police them effectively. We got the information and trailed them. They ran into policemen as they were going and opened fire."

The police spokesman added that policemen retaliated without wasting time.

“The robbers escaped with bullet wounds. But two of our men were injured,” said Mba.

He said he cannot confirm whether a civilian was killed or not since she didn't receive such information. He however said that it was a possibility that can not be ruled out since the bandits were shooting indiscriminately.

In Onitsha, the robbers succeeded in carting away cash and valuables from so many victims, inspite of all the security measures put in place

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by the State Police Command.

A source hinted that the bandits who were armed with sophisticated weapons had a field day robbing cyber cafes, provision stores and residential buildings along the Old Market Road Onitsha. The operation which lasted for hours was never challenged by either the police or any vigilance group.

According to the some of the victims who lodged complaints at the Onitsha Police Area Command but who pleaded anonymity, they said that the exact worth of items carted away can not be ascertained as at press time but should be estimated at over N3 million even as they maintained that they were not happy that the robbers had a field day without any challenge.

When contacted, the Onitsha Police Area Commander, Mr. Rasheed Akintunde hinted that the police would now mount surveillance in those areas, adding that the community vigilance groups who live with the people have a major role to play in fishing out the hoodlums.