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**Death toll in Owo bank robbery rises to 18**

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**• Suspect arrested in Edo**

**D**eath toll in last Thursday's bank robbery in Owo, Ondo State, rose to 18 yesterday, according to a source in the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), who said many of the injured victims reportedly died.

*Crime Watch Today* reliably gathered that many victims of the robbery who were rushed to the FMC, Owo where they were admitted, died yesterday.

Bandits had last Thursday stormed Owo and attacked banks.

**Scores injured as political thugs clash in Ondo**

**S**cores of people were injured yesterday as All Progressives Congress (APC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) thugs clashed in Idanre, Ondo State.

The clash, according to sources, occurred shortly after the results of last Saturday's presidential election was announced in Abuja.

During the clash, the police also made some arrests.

A resident of the town who craved anonymity, explained that the suspected political thugs fought in Anaye Market Square, Ojota, Sabo and palace Road.

During the robbery, a manager of a new generation bank and his assistant were shot dead by the hoodlums.

However, sources at the FMC, where the victims were admitted, said 16 of the victims later died in the hospital.

The source also informed that many of the victims were in Intensive Care owing to the severity of the injuries.

It was gathered that the armed robbers inflicted injuries on many residents during the operation which lasted for about three hours as they shot sporadically when they entered the town.

*Crime Watch Today*, however, learnt that some victims have been discharged from hospital.

It was learnt that the Assistant Manager who was killed by the robbers for failing to release the key of the strong room had been buried at his residence in Ibadan, Oyo State.

Although the police in Ondo State are yet to make any arrest in connection with the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr Wole Ogodo, said the command would ensure that the robbers are apprehended soonest.

He said detectives had been deployed in the town since the incident occurred.

Meanwhile, Edo State Police Command has arrested a suspected armed robber, Sadiq, alleged to have participated in the attack.

The suspect who was arrested with bullet

wounds at Ibillo in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area, may have been abandoned by fleeing members of his gang after they engaged the police in a shoot-out.

Commissioner of Police, Samuel Adegbuyi, who disclosed this to journalists in Benin yesterday, said his men confronted the robbers at Ibillo after he received information that the hoodlums were heading towards the area.

He said the robbers fled after several minutes of gun battle and abandoned some arms and ammunition, adding that efforts were on to arrest other fleeing members.

The commissioner listed items recovered from the robbers to include 32 AK47 magazines, three LAR rifle magazines, seven TO6 rifle magazine, 23 teargas canisters, three boxes of ammunition, 12 rounds dummy cartridges, 23 live ammunition, three police crash helmets, of one police uniforms.

However, the suspect, who denied involvement in the Owo bank robbery, said he was shot at Owo and was recently discharged from the hospital.

Sadiq said he was travelling through Ibillo to his hometown, Okene to seek herbal treatment for his gunshot wound which he attributed to stray bullet.

CP Adegbuyi said eight persons were arrested in the state for various electoral violence, noting that they would be handed over to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for prosecution.

The police command yesterday paraded 28 suspects arrested for cultism, kidnappings, armed robbery and other crimes.

Among them was 39-year-old Okandu who was nabbed for having sex with little boys.

