

**METRO AND CRIME**

# Robbers raid banks, kill pregnant policewoman, 16 others



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- **I'm saddened by Offa robbery –Ahmed**

A pregnant policewoman, her colleagues and many civilians were gunned down yesterday when daredevil armed robbers stormed Offa in Kwara State. In all, about 17 people – policemen and civilians – were killed. The robbers raided five banks, Zenith Bank, GT



stormed. It was also learnt that the bandits, who operated for about an hour, entered about 4.45p.m. and operated till about 5.40p.m. They were said to have first blocked from both Ilorin and Osogbo ends to ensure uninterrupted operation. Thereafter, they for the divisional police station in the town, killing the policemen on duty, among other people at the station. They were alleged to have shot people in the head when they entered commercial banks to rob.

The hoodlums, who escaped with unspecified amount of money carted from the commercial banks, also reportedly escaped through Igosun area of the town. Among the policemen killed by the armed robbers that operated in a commando style, was a man identified as Pel was expected to retire in a few months and a pregnant policewoman. Another witness said that bodies of six policemen were taken away in his presence, while efforts were being made to bring out others from inside the police station. It was also learnt that the bandits, who numbered at least 15, came in different vehicles as they stationed themselves at strategic areas of the town. They were also reported to have also snatched commercial motorc which they used to operate and escape.

The General Hospital, Offa, where the injured victims were taken, was already overwhelmed by those who sustained varying degrees of injuries and gunshot wounds. It was learnt that management of the hospital has called for blood donation to cope with the huge number of those who required blood.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ajayi Okasanmi, confirmed the incident, adding that victims included a policeman and other individuals. He said that details of the robbery would be made after a full investigation. A witness, Olusegun Ogunngboye, said the robbers started operation about 4p.m. and drove away at 5.35p.m.

At press time, three died in Zenith Bank area (staff and police officer) but no casualty at First Bank and Union Bank, while two died at ECO Bank area. Also, a body of civilian was found in front of Post Office while another was in front of Roman Catholic Church. Also discovered were about 10 bodies in various offices within Owode Police Station (civilians and police officers). Meanwhile, Governor Abdulfatah Ahmed of Kwara State in a Facebook post said he was very saddened by the tragic events in Offa yesterday.

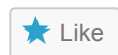

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Security agencies in the state and have urged them to do all within their power to secure the area and environs and bring the perpetrators to justice. “I have also directed the health services to rapidly deploy emergency services to treat those injured in the attack. My heartfelt condolences to the people of Offa and the families of victims of today’s attack.”

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