



## Robbers Attack Bank, Kill 7

From Reuben Buhari in Kaduna, 08.31.2007

### Kaduna

Seven People were yesterday killed and money running into millions of naira carted away by dare-devil robbers who attacked a leading commercial bank near the north gate of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria in Kaduna.

According to THISDAY investigation, the robbers numbering six including one lady, might have targeted the money meant for Army pension payment which was supposed to be paid about the same time they stormed the bank.

Most of the people killed by the robbers, including the manager of the Daula Restaurant situated two buildings away from the bank and opposite the school North gate, were innocent passersby or bystanders who were outside the bank while none of the bank workers was killed according to information made available to THISDAY. The robbery incident started at about 11:30 am according to witness accounts when the robbers arrived in two Mercedes Benz cars, one Benz 190 and one Mercedes 200 V Boot

“They stationed one of their members each at both ends of the road leading to Funtua and Zaria town to control the traffic, while the Mercedes V Boot which has two people in it including the lady was kept driving to and fro around the junction in front of the bank which was directly opposite the (ABU) North Gate, while the other car was parked inside the premises. All the robbers including those on the road and those in the cars were carrying sophisticated weapons which they kept shooting sporadically into the air to scare away people. “The robbery lasted more than one hour during which the whole area was deserted but after the incident they drove away towards the Zaria town still shooting. They must have carted away lots of money as the Mercedes V Boot car’s rear sagged under the heavy load of the money stolen at the bank,” one of the students who witnessed the robbery incident said. Another student who was inside the restaurant when the whole operation started disclosed that the restaurant manager who was killed during the operation was running towards the restaurant to tell the staff to lock up when he was gunned down by the robbers.

When the Police Area Commander visited the scene after the robbers had escaped, the students mobbed him in anger over the poor and late reaction of the police to save the dead. He was however, saved by some members of the community. When THISDAY visited the scene hours after the operation, detachments of Nigerian Army and that of Nigerian Police were found at the junction controlling traffic while others were seen in front and around the bank monitoring proceedings and restoring law and order. Students were also seen milling around the North gate of the Northern premier institution while ashes of burnt tires was still in sight. When the Police Public Relations Officer Kaduna State Police Command ASP Aminu Lawan Aliyu was contacted on phone over the incident, he told THISDAY that he is currently at the venue of the seminar organized for the Inspector General, the deputy and assistant inspectors general in Kaduna. “You know we are hosting a seminar for the IG, the DIGs, the AIGs, the CPs and other top ranking officers of the Nigerian Police in Kaduna, so I’m not in a position to speak to you about the robbery incident you can contact me tomorrow I would be able to confirm it,” he said.

Our investigations revealed that some of those killed have been buried according to Islamic rites while the bodies of the others have been deposited at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital Shika. Those injured have also been taken to the teaching hospital.