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Editorial
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Letters
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Real Estate
Education
Development
BackPage Extra
THISDAY Saturday
THISDAY Sunday
ARCHIVE

[This site](#) [The Web](#)

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4 Feared Killed in Lagos Bank Robbery

08.26.2008

About four persons, including a mobile policeman, were yesterday feared killed when dare devil armed robbers stormed the premises of a new generation bank located at Odonade bus stop end of the Mile 2 Orile expressway.

Two staff of the bank and a customer were also said to have sustained various degrees of bullet wounds during the attack. The incident which occurred around 11am yesterday, was a business and human activities at the Odonade Coker, where the bank was located. Trade scampers to safety for fear of being caught in robbers and some policemen from Orile police station. Though, police report has it that nobody died during the attack, including a mobile policeman on guard duty who sustained bullet wounds.

However, eye witness account has it that no fewer than four persons were killed in the incident, while several others sustained various degrees of bullet wounds. The witness alleged that the robbers who arrived in a green coloured Jeep, headed straight for the bank, taking both staff and customers hostage at gun point. The robbers, according to the witness, demanded that the bank be taken into the bank strong room, failure of which would result in the death of the staff.

One of the staff was shot to show others that the robbers collected all the money that were on the premises. The robbers were still in possession of the customers' money. The robbers actually gained entrance into the bank through the earlier morning customers. Two of them who were with rifles. They waited outside while the others went in. The witness added.

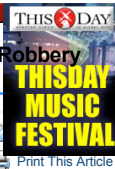
The witness could, however, not confirm if the robbers entered into the vault but added that the hoodlums went away with some money.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Superintendent of Police (DSP), Frank Mba, who contacted THISDAY stated that the operation was not successful. According to him, four persons sustained injuries, one of whom was shot on the head, two staff of the bank and a customer. He said that the robbers arrived the bank in a green Jeep at 11am yesterday morning.

They opened fire at the policemen when they discovered that they were going to be successful. Some of them fled with bullets. One was removed from the bank. It is a cash office and not a bank.

Mba further stated that the police could not open fire when they arrived the place because of the crowded nature of the place, and that was what he said accounted for low casualty.

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