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Nigeria: Two Killed, as Robbers Raid Banks in Lagos

This Day (Lagos)
22 November 2008

Posted to the web 24 November 2008

 Eugene Agha and Toba Suleiman
 Ado-Ekiti

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Gunmen in military and police uniforms yesterday raided the branches of two major banks on Lagos Island, during which two persons, were feared killed.

Also on Thursday evening, armed robbers went on rampage in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, despite the heavy presence of top police officers including the Inspector of General of Police, Mr. Mike Okiro in the state. The robbers deprived many residents of their property.

In the Lagos bank robbery, one person was allegedly killed at the premises of one of the banks in Lekki while two were feared killed on Adeola Odeku Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Several people in the two branches, including some customers sustained bullet wounds and are being treated in an undisclosed hospital on Lagos Island.

The robbers allegedly made away with a yet to be ascertained amount of money running into millions of naira in both incidents.

In the Lekki robbery, witnesses said the robbers arrived the place in two speed boats from the lagoon, wearing military and police uniforms. They escaped through the same route after their operation.

Eye witnesses alleged that all the security men attached to the banks were held hostage at gun point by the robbers.

During the attack on the bank in Lekki, three of the robbers waited by the side of the gate, to keep anybody from going out or coming into the bank, while others went into the banking hall where they were said to have carted away a lot of money.

One of the two people killed during the Lekki robbery incident was suspected to be a security man attached to the bank, while the identity of the other victim is yet to be confirmed.

A police patrol van from Maroko Police Station raced to the Lekki



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scene, after the robbers had escaped.

The Lagos State Police Command spokesman, Superintendent of Police (SP), Frank Mba told THISDAY on phone that both operations were not successful.

He confirmed that two persons were killed at Lekki while one other person was injured.

Mba also said that both operations were foiled by the timely arrival of the Police Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC).

He added that the robbery incident that took place along Adeola Odeku was not targeted at the bank but at one of the customers, identified as Samuel Uwah, a staff of Abia State Liaison office.

Among the victims of the Ado Ekiti robbery incident were a notable judge in the state, Justice Cornelius Akintayo, the chairperson of Emure Local Government council, Mrs. Cecilia Ogundare and a lecturer at the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti.

Justice Akintayo, who was robbed at his GRA Onigari residence, Ado-Ekiti lost his official car, N20, 000 cash and jewelry worth thousands of Naira belonging to his wife.

Also yesterday, armed robbers besieged, Salem City, Warri, the headquarters of God's Kingdom Society, (GKS) killing two ministers of the Church, a laity member and a security guard.

A statement issued by the Publicity Secretary, Brother Benedict Hart stated that no fewer than 15 to 20 heavily armed robbers invaded the expansive compound at about 2 a.m., shooting indiscriminately and robbing residents in various blocks of the compound.

"In the process they killed two ministers of the Church, (names withheld) and a middle aged male member of the church who came in to spend the night as a guest in one of the blocks in the compound. The wife of one of the senior ministers of the church received head injuries from shrapnel that flew in various directions as the robbers blasted her room key with their gun in order to force the door open," the statement said.

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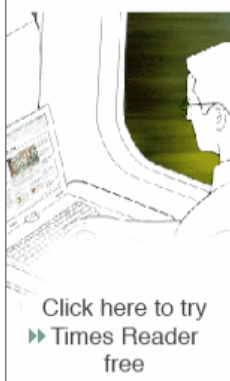
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