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2 Feared Killed as Robbers Raid Banks in Awka

From Emeka Osondu in Awka, 08.25.2009

At least two persons were feared dead with no fewer than 12 others badly wounded yesterday, when dare-devil armed robbers struck four banks in Awka, Anambra State capital.

The robbers, allegedly dressed in suits, arrived the Ukwu-Orji axis of Zik Avenue, where majority of the banks were located at about 1.50p.m. in red pathfinder jeep and a pick-up van, shooting sporadically into the air to enable them gain entry into the first generation bank, where they robbed customers and cashiers.

They were, however, unable to gain access to the vault. Timely intervention of the police prevented the robbers from gaining access into three other banks within the axis, as they blew open security entrance to one of the banks, and attempted entering two others.

The Police promptly rose to the challenge as they arrived the scene in a convoy of pick-up vans, backed by their Armored Personnel Carrier, and engaged the robbers in a deadly gun duel that lasted for about 20 minutes. The robbers soon fled in a snatched bus said to belong to one of the transport companies in the area, abandoning the pathfinder jeep and pick-up van in which they came.

The two persons feared dead during the encounter are a female customer to one of the banks and a security guard at another bank. In his reaction, the State Police Commissioner, Mr. Uzor Amakulor, confirmed the incident, adding that the police's response was fast. Amakulor promised to give comprehensive details of the extent of damage, adding that his officers and men are still on the trail of robbers.

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