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16 Gunned Down in Adamawa Bank Robbery

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Gunmen suspected of being members of Boko Haram bombed a police station and robbed two banks yesterday killing 16 people, according to various reports.

The men stormed Gobi, **Adamawa** State, in broad daylight, first attacking the police station with bombs and wreaking the building with gunfire, the state Commissioner for Police, Mr. A.T. Shinaba, said.

The group killed four police officers and a soldier guarding the area. The Associated Press (AP) reported Shinaba as saying.

The sect members then shot their way into two local branches of two first generation banks, killing seven **bank** employees before speeding away with an unknown amount of cash, he added. Four others suffered injuries in the attack.

"Our police station was attacked this morning by a gang of suspected Boko Haram gunmen in vehicles and motorbikes," the shaken police commissioner told journalists. We are "combing the bush for fleeing sect members".

Gobi Local Government Chairman Ahmad Isa Hassan confirmed the casualty figure to AFP.

"Sixteen people were killed in all following attacks by gunmen on two police stations and two banks," said Hassan. "The attackers were armed with explosives and automatic rifles with which they attacked their targets ... For now we suspect the attackers were armed robbers."

At the time the source was speaking, there had only been indications of one police station being attacked.

"Reports have reached the police headquarters of attacks on the police station and banks in Gobi," the source had said on condition of anonymity. "The police commissioner is on his way to the town to assess the situation."

A resident, Hussein Abdurrazak, had earlier said by phone that the gunmen overpowered the police at one station and carted away arms before going to the banks to steal money.

"They were chanting 'Allahu Akbar', and our suspicion is they may be members of Boko Haram or just armed robbers hiding under that cover," he said.

Boko Haram has been blamed for scores of bomb attacks and shootings, leading to over 700 lives lost this year alone.

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