

Robbers invade hospital, kill two

By Simon Ebegbulem

BENIN — TWO security guards attached at the Irrua Specialist hospital in Esan Central local government council and the Travis Christian College in Benin City, were shot dead while cash and valuables estimated at over N2 million were carted away as armed robbers attacked their premises weekend.

The security guard at Irrua who was identified as Mr. Sunday Erabhamien, was said to have been shot dead by the robbers immediately they arrived the hospital at about 2.15am.

An eyewitness told *Vanguard* that the robbers gained entrance into the hospital under the guise of having a sick patient that needed urgent medical attention. "They went round all the security posts in the hospital premises and tied up all the security men on duty before proceeding to the cashier's office".

The robbers who were said to have invaded the hospital with two vehicles, a Peugeot 504 wagon car and a bus, headed to the office of the cashier, destroyed the vault and carted away huge sum of money which *Vanguard* learnt was worth millions.

According to the eyewitness "after they collected the money from the vault, they went to the office of the CMD and ransacked the place but could not find any money because we do not keep cash there. We noticed that they

became very angry when they came out because they started shooting again".

"They started going from ward to ward, collecting money, handsets and other valuables from patients and their relatives.

The whole thing was really frightening. For like one hour they were operating. Some patients even sustained gunshot injuries but we thank God that it was not worst than that".

The Chief Medical Director (CMD) of the hospital, Professor George Akpede said

the staff who were attacked by the hoodlums had been hospitalised while a formal report had been lodged at the Irrua police station.

Meanwhile the attack at Travis College was said to have lasted for about 30 minutes, forcing hundreds of students to scamper to different directions after the bandits killed the security guard.

Contacted, the state Police spokesman, ASP Peter Ogboi confirmed the incidence and said security operatives were on the trail of the robbers.

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