

Gunmen attack bullion van, kill 4 policemen in Rivers

By George Onah

PORT HARCOURT—FOUR policemen were killed and undisclosed amount of money stolen from a bullion van along the Elele-Owerri Road in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Tuesday, when gunmen attacked the van as it drove towards Owerri in Imo State.

Vanguard observed that as at 2.25 pm, the bodies of two policemen were lying on the tarred road while two other bodies of men in police uniform were lying in the bullion van, after the gunmen had fled.

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According to an eye witness who spoke under cover, one of the explosives thrown out by the cultists, blew up a car on Station road.

"I had gone around Station road to fix my generator set when these boys suddenly took over the streets shooting. They threw dynamites at a car parked close to a filling station. And it went up in flames. Another vehicle was smashed at Hospital road. You need to see how they were looking fiery even girls were among them. They had guns in their two hands and were just firing".

Also, two empty boxes of money, believed to have been emptied by the attackers, were lying beside the bodies of the uniformed men, causing sympathizers to mill around the van and some of them weeping for the dead security men.

Witnesses told *Vanguard* that the youths of the area attempted to block the get-away route of the robbers but could not "for fear that the gunmen could shoot their way through and cause more deaths" and would not be stopped because none of the youths had arms.

Another witness said two of the policemen whose corpses laid on the road engaged the robbers in a gun duel but that the resistance of the uniformed men was too feeble, "when compared to the heavy gun and sound of the shooting of the armed robbers. They killed them and carried away the gun of the policemen".

A man simply identified as Silas said, "the bank's van was coming from Port Harcourt, when the armed robbers overtook them in two brand new Peugeot car, swerving to the left and right, shooting heavily at the bank van, until it stopped and the robbers still continued to open fire". Both the Commissioner of Police and the PPRO could not be reached as their phones did not go through.