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East
South West
North
Politics
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Sports
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Health
Environment
Entertainment
Fashion
Technology
The Arts
Law
Labour
Tourism
Viewpoints

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Robbers attack Kano prisons, two inmates shot dead

TINA ANTHONY Kano

Posted to the Web: Sunday, September 02, 2007

IN an attempt to free some of inmates of Kano Central Prisons by a gang of suspected armed robbers, two inmates have been shot dead. The victims were killed during a gun battle between prison warders and the armed robbers Friday evening.

The eyewitness told Sunday Vanguard that the gang numbering to twenty and armed with sophisticated guns had over twenty minutes gunfire exchange with the prison warders before the mobile policemen were drafted to assist them.

When Sunday Vanguard visited the prisons, yesterday, about 18 wounded inmates who tried to escape during the incident were being carried out by policemen and prison officers to hospital for treatment.

A source said that part of the prison was set on fire by the inmates during the attack as part of their strategy to escape, but added that none of the robbers was arrested but the inmates who tried to escape were apprehended. The source explained that the attack coincided with inmates Thursday protest over what they called poor condition of the prison and hunger, which they alleged caused many of them to die of malnutrition and curable sicknesses.

When contacted, Kano police spokesman DSP Baba Mohammed who confirmed the incident said two inmates lost their lives during the pandemonium, saying the state command prompt intervention saved the situation from escalating, adding that no single inmate escaped from the prison. Mohammed assured that the state police command was working round the clock to ensure that those behind the attack were arrested and brought to book.

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The minister of state for interior, Alhaji Hassan, arrived Kano Friday night to see the condition of damage done to the prison as a result of the incident. Some senior officers of the Nigeria Prison Service from Abuja were also in the state to investigate the matter. However, efforts to speak with the state comptroller of prison service proved abortive.

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