

# One feared dead, 20 injured in bank raid

By Anayo Okoli

**A**WKA—One person is feared dead and over twenty people were said to have sustained serious injuries when dare-devil armed robbers attacked the Ekwulobia, Aguata Local government area, branch of a bank on Wednesday afternoon.

This is coming less than one month when the bank's branch in Umunze, less than 25 kilometers from Ekwulobia was attacked the second time.

Only last week, the member representing Orumba South constituency in the Anambra House of Assembly, Princess Nikky Ugochukwu, on the floor of the House called on the state Government and the police to beef up security in the area, saying that robbers were terrorizing the area.

Governor Peter Obi two weeks ago donated to the Police 30 new Ford vans to enable them fight crime and criminals in the state.

The robbers were said to have taken over the town at about 12:30pm, after entering the town in a Mitsubishi bus. They were said to have opened fire on sighting a detachment of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) who

were on a patrol in the area.

But the robbers were said to have over-powered the SARS personnel, forcing them to abandon their vehicle and fled.

However, a police constable guarding another bank located few meters away from the Intercontinental Bank was said to have bravely engaged the ten robbers in a gun battle which lasted for sometime before the robbers could gain entrance into the bank.

The bandits were said to have fired indiscriminately into the crowd, and smashed the electronic security door of the bank, broke through the bank's strong room and carted away unspecified amount of money.

When the robbers were satisfied by their operation and left, angry members of the public who felt disappointed with the manner the SARS operative fled and abandoned their vehicles set a brand new police Ford van with the inscription "COBRA SQUAD" ablaze and touched the SARS office in the area. The protesters were said to have hailed the brave police constable who had battled the robbers, carrying him shoulder-high.