

NEWS

7 Policemen feared dead in Oturkpo bank robbery

MAKURDI — Seven policemen were feared dead yesterday during an exchange of fire with 16 suspected armed robbers who invaded a branch of Unity Bank in Oturkpo, Benue.

The State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Samuel Jinadu, told newsmen in Makurdi that the suspected armed robbers invaded the premises of the bank at about 12:30 p.m. He said that a corporal who was deployed to guard the bank was the first casualty.

Jinadu said that another policeman, who was at the bank to withdraw money, was also killed and that the gang shot and killed five others outside the bank premises as they were escaping with an unspecified amount of money.

He said that information

reaching the police command pointed out that the robbers headed for Ankpa in Kogi State. Jinadu said that all neighbouring police posts and commands around the state had been contacted and that they were on the trail of the bandits.

He said that the divisional police officer and the area commander for Oturkpo had dispatched a team of mobile policemen to trail the suspected robbers. Jinadu said that the Kogi State Police Commissioner, Sir Ibe Aghanya, had assured the Benue Command of "total support" in the effort to track down the suspects.

The Acting Commissioner of Police in Benue, Mr Ibrahim Mohammed, said the incident would not dampen the morale of officers and men of the command.