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Robbers raid bank in Delta...Kill onlooker, shoot soldier, hijack army van



By Emma Amaize

A gang of armed robbers operating in Delta State overpowered a military patrol team in a gun battle at the weekend, and fled with a Toyota Hilux vehicle attached to the squad after raiding a bank at Umunede.

One of the soldiers was wounded by the bandits who also shot an onlooker while escaping with their booty at Agbor.

Delta State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Charles Muka, who confirmed the robbery, told Sunday Vanguard that a staff



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of the bank has been arrested in connection with the incident.

It was gathered that the bandits, who might have operated with the knowledge of an insider at the bank, successfully completed their mission but shot dead a passerby and injured a driver for allegedly blocking their escape route.

The hoodlums, reportedly heading towards Warri after the Umunede operation via the Agbor-Obiaruku-Abraka road, were confronted by the military patrol team.

An eye witness said: "It was a fierce gun duel. The robbers overpowered the soldiers. One of the soldiers sustained bullet wounds and they (robbers) took the soldiers Hilux van and fled with it".

The police spokesman confirmed that the bank staff, arrested, fled from the police station some hours after he was nabbed, but he was tracked down and investigation into the matter was being handled by the Criminal Investigation Department of the state police command.

Sunday Vanguard learnt that the suspect was fingered in a similar robbery incident in the bank in the past as the person that gave information to robbers.

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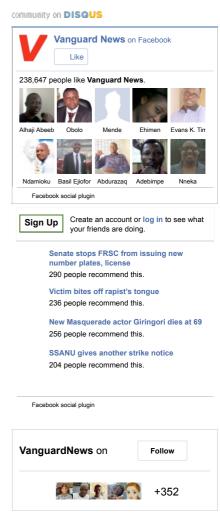


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