



Nigeria: Ayobo Atm Robbery - Police Parade Medical Doctor, Pastor, Two Others

BY IFEANYI OKOLIE AND ESTHER ONYEBULA, 14 FEBRUARY 2014

Lagos — THE Lagos State Police Command, yesterday, paraded four persons, including a medical doctor and a pastor, who were linked to the deadly gang of robbers who attacked the Ayobo branch of Access Bank, killing three policemen, last November.

This came as seven more AK-47 rifles, two K-2 rifles, one pump action and 17 AK-47 magazines, fully loaded, were recovered by operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, SARS, Ikeja, at one of the gang's hideouts in Egbeda area of Lagos.

The recovery brought the total number of rifles recovered from members of the gang, which specialised in braking into banks' Automated Teller Machines, ATMs, to 15, while 10 of the 14 member-gang have been gunned down in different encounters in the last eight weeks.

Vanguard also gathered that 13 of the 15 recovered arms were those of policemen killed during the bandits' operations.

Sources disclosed that the officer in charge of SARS, Sp Abba Kyari, who coordinated the arrests and the subsequent recoveries of the arms, received an intelligence report about a secret house that members of the gang were using.

The house was allegedly owned by one of the robbers identified as Saviour Confidence, who was gunned down during an operation, at 49, Alimosho Road, Egbeda area.

It was gathered that Confidence, who was an ex-bank staff, fled to South Africa after some members of his gang were killed during a robbery at Ilasamaja area.

The robbers, clad in army uniform, were said to have gone to Ilasamaja few days after the Ayobo bank robbery to rob a bureau de change operator of N10 million.

They had a shoot-out with some SARS operatives who accosted them at the scene and two members of the gang, identified as Eyo Bassey and one unnamed fake soldier, were killed, while one AK-47 rifle, 11 magazines, loaded with 30 rounds each and three mobile phones were recovered.

How Confidence was killed

Sources disclosed that Confidence fled the country after learning of Bassey's death, fearing the police would track him down.

But the police managed to arrest his fiancée and made her tell him that all was well. He sneaked into the country one month later, asking his fiancée to meet him in an obscure location in Abule-Egba thinking the police were no longer after him.



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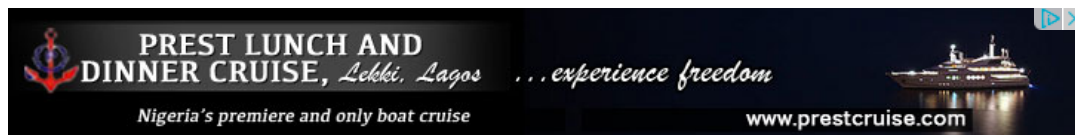


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