

## Thieves break into downtown banks

Yesterday afternoon thieves broke into three banks in the centre of Abidjan and escaped with \$25 million. This was the biggest robbery in the country's history. Police have not made any comment and the investigation is still ongoing.

According to witnesses, the three banks were attacked at the same time and in the same way. Three identical black vans arrived at 2.30 pm outside the banks, an hour before closing time. A number of armed robbers got out of the vans walked into each bank. There were five people in each team. It was impossible to identify them on the cameras because everyone was wearing a helmet and black clothing. No-one spoke. The robbers made signs to tell the customers to lie on the floor. In one bank people started to panic and a robber shot into the air to make people quiet. Two people guarded the customers and the bank staff. The others made the managers put all the money from the cashiers into bags. They also forced the managers to open the safe and took jewelry as well as money.

Each raid was very efficient. They took no more than 10 minutes to get in and out of the bank with the money. No-one tried to call the police. The bank workers said they were too scared.

As soon as the robbers left, the managers hit the alarm buttons and police arrived minutes later. But it was too late, the robbers had gone. Later police found the three cars on different roads out of town. There was no sign of any of the money. They still don't know the identity of the robbers and are appealing to anyone who was in any of the banks at the time or anyone who was outside the banks in the street.

### New words for this article

to break into	to enter a building illegally
witness	someone who sees something happening
closing time	when a bank/shop/cafe shuts
safe	strong room to store money
raid	attack

### Comprehension Questions

1. There have been bigger robberies
2. The investigation is continuing
3. The three vans arrived together outside the bank
4. A robber shot one of the bank workers
5. The robbers left the jewelry

### Comprehension questions

1. It took place yesterday afternoon
2. Witnesses saw the vans arrive
3. They were wearing helmets and black clothing
4. It lasted 10 minutes
5. They were too scared.

### Answers