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German bank robbed in \$35mn 'professional' heist

Thieves used a drill to breach a Sparkasse vault over Christmas, looting 95% of customers' safety deposit boxes



A hole in a wall of the savings bank branch in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, December 29, 2025 © Police Gelsenkirchen via AP

shortly before 4:00am on Monday.

Investigators believe a specialized, industrial-grade drill was used in the operation. A police spokesperson described the heist as *"professionally executed."*

Thieves executed a meticulously planned heist, making off with an estimated \$35 million (approximately €30 million) in cash and personal valuables from a bank vault in Gelsenkirchen over the Christmas holidays, according to police.

The break-in at a Sparkasse savings bank occurred sometime between Saturday evening and Monday morning. The thieves bypassed security by drilling through a thick concrete wall to access the vault, then forced open over 3,000 safety deposit boxes, impacting approximately 2,700 customers.

Police discovered the scene in disarray only after a fire alarm sounded from the bank

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Witnesses reported seeing several individuals carrying large bags through a nearby parking garage over the weekend, while security footage captured a black Audi RS 6 speeding away early Monday morning with masked occupants. The vehicle was confirmed as stolen from Hanover, approximately 200 kilometers away.

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Customers arrived at the bank on Tuesday to find it sealed off. Hundreds gathered, demanding answers after Sparkasse confirmed that 95% of the safety deposit boxes had been breached.

Police estimate the damage to be "in the two-digit million range," according to a statement released Tuesday. The contents of each deposit box are insured up to €10,300, suggesting a total loss of at least €30 million, according to local media. However, many customers fear this will be insufficient to cover their losses and are scrambling to assess their additional insurance coverage.

The bank branch remains closed while police continue their investigation. Authorities have yet to make any arrests and the perpetrators remain at large.

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k ken hunter 12/31/2025 at 1:43 PM 0

The drilling of a three foot thick wall would have caused sound and huge vibrations.Im amazed the walls around the vault did not have vibration sensors. Security was certainly lax and the bank should be held to account.

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Z No_Right_Turns 12/31/2025 at 1:34 PM 0

??? Where were Ursula von der Leyen and Kaja Kallas when this crime was committed?

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R RT 12/31/2025 at 1:30 PM 0

So many Television movies of exactly the same process. Educational television:)

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B Bindhaas 12/31/2025 at 1:23 PM 0

i am sure those robbers will have a jolly new year.

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J Jim Davies 12/31/2025 at 1:00 PM 1

The raid was presumably modeled on the 1971 London theft from safe-deposit boxes at a branch of Lloyds, told fairly accurately in the movie "The Bank Job".

Those thieves were aided by a temporary suspension of the vault's alarm system, and by help from MI5 who wanted film from one of the boxes because it showed Princess Margaret cavorting naked in the Caribbean. What, I wonder, were the special circumstances applying in the Gelsenkirchen case?

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EzTv Light 12/31/2025 at 1:08 PM ↑ 1

Never believe what a 3 letter agency says was the reasons.

Thanks for the reminder.