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Package with petrol and bullet found in Italian bank branch

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PACKAGE WITH PETROL AND BULLET  
FOUND IN ITALIAN BANK BRANCH

April 20, 2020

MILAN, April 20 (Reuters) – A package containing a petrol tank and a bullet was found inside a bank Intesa Sanpaolo on Monday, police said, an incident that a leading union linked to tensions over COVID-19 crisis loans.

 “The parcel did not have a fuse and couldn’t have detonated but it was a clear threat against the commander Pietro Barrel told Reuters.

The main trade union for banking staff, FABI, linked the incident to tensions between customers’ requests for loans guaranteed by the state under a liquidity package the government approved.

Police said all possibilities were being considered and it was too early to say if the episode was a coronavirus emergency.

Monday was the first day on which Italian businesses could apply for loans worth up to 25,000 euros with a 100% state guarantee.

FABI said there had been “waves” of requests from businesses for such loans.

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the package in the Intesa branch was among the most concerning examples of the unrest.

A spokesman for Intesa, Italy's largest retail bank, confirmed a parcel had been found, adding as usual on Tuesday.

Italian banks, which have shuttered branches and cut opening hours to limit contagion risks forced by the government with funneling to cash-starved firms up to 750 billion euros in possible new state.

Italy's third-largest bank Banco BPM, the first lender to report figures, said there had been 8,000 25,000 euros on Monday, totalling 140 million euros in aggregate.

(\$1 = 0.9206 euros)

(Reporting by Valentina Za; Additional reporting by Andrea Mandala; Editing by Pravin Char)

 **REUTERS**

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