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Police kill two suspected robbers in Ondo

From Niyi Bello (Akure)

A SIX-member armed robbery gang made up of youths in their late twenties, which invaded Ondo State from neighbouring Delta State, was last Wednesday smashed by men of the State Police Command. The policemen killed two of suspected robbers during an exchange of gunfire in Okitipupa.

A statement by the command's spokesman, Adeniran Aremu, said that the slain suspected robbers were indigenes of Agbaro in Delta State. Another suspected robber sustained injuries during the gun duel.

Aremu also disclosed that three other members of the gang escaped and fled while the police overpowered the suspected robbers and that a dragnet had been spread to effect their arrest.

The police said the identities of the dead and the fleeing robbers were obtained during the interrogation of their injured colleague who also disclosed that himself and the two dead persons were aged 28 years.

Further investigation revealed that the gang arrived in Okitipupa last weekend at about 5p.m where they snatched a Toyota Camry car with registration number AAA 289 GKB from one Mrs. Folake Balogun, at gunpoint before engaging in an all-night siege on Ilu-Titun and Oloto, robbing residents of their valuable belongings.

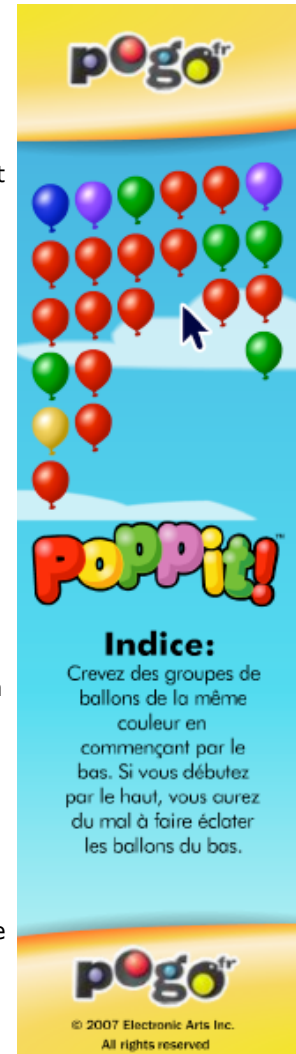
Luck, however ran out on them as they were leaving Okitipupa when they were intercepted by a team of armed policemen who, acting on a tip-off, stopped them for a routine search in a check-point near the Benin-Ore expressway.

The search led to the discovery of several reported stolen items and an undisclosed amount of money, but the gang's resistance of arrest resulted in a hot exchange of fire in which two members of the gang were felled.

Aremu, who also disclosed that five-barel guns and 25 cartridges were recovered from the suspected robbers, said the arrested person would soon be arraigned in court for robbery charges while efforts were being intensified to arrest the fleeing ones.

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