

# Trans-border Robbery Suspects Meet Waterloo

## • One Killed, Two Others Arrested

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The common saying that, "Everyday is for the thief, one day for the owner" captures the recent smashing of a trans-border robbery gang, which specialised in snatching posh vehicles and ferrying them to the neighbouring Republic of Benin for disposal.

Luck ran out on five members of the gang when they wanted to make away with a Rio KIA saloon car stolen in Ibadan, Oyo State capital, en-route Ogunmakin, a border village in neighbouring Ogun State. Initially, they had wanted to snatch an unmarked Hilux Toyota van parked by the roadside and belonging to the operatives attached to the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Ogun State Police Command, Adatan, Abeokuta.

Unknown to them, when they were about to remove the vehicle they were repelled by the operatives, who opened fired at them.

During the ensuing encounter, one of the bandits was shot dead on the spot while two others, who sustained bullet wounds, were arrested and two other accomplices escaped with bullet wounds into a nearby bush.

According to Ogun State Police Commissioner, Mr. Solomon Olusegun, at the parade of the suspects before newsmen at the Command Headquarters, Elewe-Eran, Abeokuta, on Wednesday, May 27, 2008, his men from the command's Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) while on patrol of the expressway accosted the five-man armed robbery gang at Ogunmakin.

He disclosed that the bandits were operating in a Rio KIA saloon car (marked CN 369 KTU), which was snatched from a Catholic Reverend Father in Ibadan, Oyo State capital. The Ogun police boss stated that members of the gang, who were based in Mushin, Lagos, had gone to see their leader, who was based in Ibadan, but when they saw the reverend's car, they abandoned their operational car, which was also suspected stolen, and made away with the Rio KIA car.

However, Olusegun said the suspects upon sighting his men opened fire during which the operatives replied in self-defence.

It was also gathered that three of the bandits were arrested, but one of them later died after being rushed to a nearby hospital.

The suspects were identified as Lekan Davies (21), Nurudeen Lawal (20), and Wasiu Kasali (30).

Items recovered from included the stolen Rip KIA saloon car, two cut to size



•The robbery suspects

single barrel guns, a single barrel gun, five live cartridges, two handsets, a cutlass and assorted charms.

Also, the Ogun police boss disclosed that the bandits confessed that they took off from Lagos to Ibadan to see their ringleader (names withheld) before they "jammed luck" and snatched the Rio KIA car from a Rev. Father.

He added that the robbers confessed that they were on their way to a border town in the Republic of Benin when they met their Waterloo at Ogunmakin Village.

Subsequent confessions by the bandits revealed that the gang was responsible for several other robbery operations in the South-West part of the country, where they had their network.

The Ogun State police boss, however, assured that investigation had commenced in earnest to track down two other fleeing members of the gang.



•Wounded robbery suspects

### Recovered Vehicles

The Lagos State Police Command has recovered 14 vehicles suspected stolen from different locations in the state between March 13 and 17, 2008. The vehicles can be located at the station mentioned against each of them as follows:

S/NO.	NAMES OF VEHICLES	REG. NO.	COLOUR	LOCATION
1.	Toyota Siena Bus	FU 569 EKY	Blue	Owutu Div.
2.	Toyota Corolla S/C	MJ 475 KJA	Silver	Alausa Div.
3.	Nissan Sunny S/C	DJ 89 LND	Ash	Bode Thomas Div.
4.	Audi S/C	AQ 563 BWR	D/Ash	Ketu Div.
5.	Toyota Corolla S/C	MA 789 AAA	Black	Idimu Div.
6.	Opel Vectra S/C	Unregistered	Grey	Victoria Island Div.
7.	V/Wagen Jetta S/C	XL 918 EKY	LSCC	Ikeja Div.
8.	Nissan Sunny S/C	BD 419 RSH	Red	Adeniji Adele Div.
9.	V/wagen Faragon Bus	XN 92 JJJ	LSCC	Trinity Div.
10.	V/Wagen Faragon Bus	YE 517 KJA	LSCC	Oshodi Div.
11.	V/Wagen Santana S/C	XL 61 FST	LSCC	Ikeja Div.
12.	Mazda 323 S/C	BZ 559 FST	Blue	Ijanikin Div.
13.	M/Benz 320 Jeep	BX 529 FST	Ash	Area 'E' Hq
14.	M/Benz 190 S/C	CN 490 APP	M/Green	Alausa Div.

As usual, members of the public with claims to the recovered vehicles should check at the police station mentioned against each of them with original documents.

Claimants should endeavour to check the engine numbers as the original registration numbers may have been tampered with.

•Compiled by Femi Ogbonnikan, REPORTER, Lagos.