

be a member of the gang.

Crime Reports gathered that it was Rasak who exposed Tijani's past criminal deeds as a murderer and wanted person immediately he was arrested, in retaliation to Tijani's decision to expose his robbery exploits to the police.

The Commissioner of Police in Ogun State, Abdulmajid Ali, while speaking with **Crime Reports** during a press briefing this week, said that operatives of Special Anti-Robbery Squad got information about the gang on January 22, leading to arrest of Rasak who was found with two guns, 14 live cartridges and two expended cartridge shells.

Ali stated that the suspect confessed to his membership of a robbery gang and Eye Confraternity. Rasak was reported to have also revealed that he had killed some people during cult clashes in Ijoko community.

"His confession led to the arrest of other gang members namely Idowu Tijani and Raimi Ogunkunle. The gang leader, Tijani a.k.a. **Iyaloja**, disclosed that he is a relation of Oba Matanmi of Ijoko and had killed some people during face-off between Matanmi and Tobalase families," the police boss added.

Recovered from the suspects were five locally-made pistols, a pump action gun, charms and five cutlasses.

In an interview with **Crime Reports**, Tijani (45) confessed to have killed three people, but said it was to avenge the killing of his child by the same people.

According to the suspect, "about nine years ago, trouble broke out in Ijoko over kingship tussle. My mother belonged to the Matanmi family which is slugging it out with another

family. I had my shop in my mother's house in the town. The opposition set the house on fire and destroyed my shop.

"I moved to my own house but they still came there and demolished my house in an

attack, burying my child in the rubbles. They always attacked anyone known with me. My friends' houses were also burnt. It was out of anger that I shot Bintin that same day my child was killed.

Filling station owner petrol from hijacked

MEMBERS of a syndicate which specialised in hijacking tankers conveying petroleum products and selling them to ready buyers have been arrested by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad of the Oyo State Police Command.

The arrested suspects include Ogundijo Babatunde (27), Rasheed Akanni (32), Remi Olagoke (53), Bamidele Tayo (28), Kayode Oyelade (39) and Adewale Adebisi (47).

Speaking on the suspects' arrest, the Oyo State Commissioner of Police, Leye Oyebade, said that the gang was smashed on February 12 at Academy Olomi area of Ibadan while they were taking a hijacked tanker with registration number DTM 153 XA to the petrol station of their buyer, one Kayode Oyelade.

The tanker, according to Oyebade, was forcefully taken from its driver, one Yakub Mohammed Baba, along Lagos-Ibadan expressway in the early hours of the same day.

The police commissioner told **Crime Reports** that the gang's *modus operandi* was to have an informant who would monitor a particular truck from a point of departure.

"The suspects, some of whom would be armed,

would waylay their targeted truck, tie its driver and motor boy and snatch it after they must have demobilised it by disconnecting its gas hose. After taking the products to criminal buyers, they would abandon the tanker along the road.

"Worried by the activities of these bandits, the command commenced a manhunt for the criminals and after several days of intelligence gathering, the SARS operatives trailed the gang after its latest operation, arrested the members and recovered the hijacked tanker containing 45,000 litres of premium motor spirit (PMS). Also recovered was a **Daihatsu Applause** car with registration number MUS 773 CW which the suspects were using as operational

