

We killed our victim because he caused death by exposing him to soldiers —

BY OLUWATOYIN MALIK AND
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A gang of suspected kidnappers who killed their victim after collecting N6.5 million has been arrested by the Oyo State Police Command.

One of the suspects, Aremu Ogun, confessed that the victim, one Alhaji Saleh, was killed because he gave his brother, Jimoh Ogun, out to soldiers as a cow thief, leading to his death while in custody after arrest.

Metro learnt that the suspects were also responsible for the kidnap of the managing director of BOVAS and Company, an oil company, from whose family they collected N30 million as ransom; and the kidnap of one Chief Adebajo Adekitan, from whose family N15 million was collected.

These disclosures were made by the Commissioner of Police in Oyo State, Mr Abiodun Odude, during the parade of 39 suspected criminals at the police headquarters, Eleyele, Ibadan, Oyo State, on Wednesday.

He gave the names of the suspects as Umoru Abubakar (32), Ogun Aremu (35), Mutairu Mohammed (29) and Tambaya Tukura (28).

They were alleged to have kidnapped Alhaji Saliu Saleh in Ago Amodu, and killed him after collecting N6.5 million from his family.

They were reportedly led by

was God who did not allow the bullets to penetrate my body.

"It was a shock when we discovered that those responsible for the act were members of the community whom we used to give money," he said.

Also narrating his experience in the hands of the kidnappers, another victim, Chief Adebajo Adekitan, said the first attempt on him was on February 18, 2015.

According to the Ogbomosho-based businessman, "I left my office around 7:00p.m., and as I entered and was about to switch on the car ignition, some people numbering about seven just came from nowhere with a vehicle that has Ilorin, Kwara State number plate.

"They started shooting. I was hit by several bullets which pierced several parts of my body and came out from the other side. Some of them entered my car and took me with them. After a while, they dropped me when they felt I was dead and went away with my car. By then, I had lost consciousness.

"After a while, I regained consciousness I saw a motorcycle rider and told him to go to my filling station and call the manager.

"I was rushed to the hospital and the case was reported at a police station. The following day, my car was discovered in Ilorin.

"After about 10 months, the

"Then one day, I received a call from someone who said he was part of those who kidnapped me, and they wanted to visit me again because his share of the ransom I paid was too small for him. He told me he needed N5 million.

"I told him I was still indebted to a bank as a result of the ransom paid on me, but he said I should bring any amount to Ilorin road.

"I informed the police and they were able to arrest one of them who confessed he was sent by his brother."

One of the kidnappers, Abubakre Mohammed, confessed that he and one Mohammadu were put in charge of the Managing Director of Bovas Oil and had kept her in a bush at Igbeti for three days. He said he got N700,000 from the N30 million ransom collected from the victim's family. He also disclosed that he got N1 million from the N15 million paid by Adekitan's family.

He said he had kidnapped about nine people and could

not recall when he started the crime. He gave the names of those who went for the kidnapping of Bovas' MD as Audu Ekele, Babuga, Alfa, Buba, Bashir, Dankau.

Another suspect, Aremu, said that Saleh was killed after his brother paid N6.5 million because he was the one who pointed his brother, Jimoh Ogun, out to soldiers in Kara, Saki.

"My brother used to steal cows and Saleh invited soldiers to arrest him and Mutairu. My brother died in the soldiers' custody. Audu told me of intention to kidnap Saleh. I got N500,000 from the ransom which I used to start the construction of my house.

"Umoru also said he got N450,000 as his share of the ransom, claiming that he did not know that the victim was killed.

"Mutairu confessed that though he used to steal cows, he had stopped before his arrest by soldiers and subsequent transfer to the DSS. He said he was also given

