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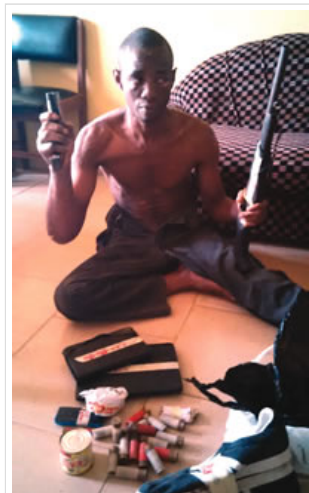
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## I'm happy I was arrested by police –Robbery suspect

APRIL 4, 2015 : KUNLE FALAYI 3 COMMENTS

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**Francis Okonkwo**

Thirty-two-year-old Francis Okonkwo was sobbing as he narrated how he escaped death and landed in police custody.

"I am happy that at least, the police arrested me; if not because of the police, I would be dead by now. The residents of the place I went to rob would have cut me into pieces," he told our correspondent.

Narrating how he took part in a robbery operation that nearly cost him his life, Okonkwo explained that he would have stuck to picking pocket which was safer.

"I made up to N10,000 sometimes, when I was a pick-pocket at the Seme Border at Badagry," he said remorsefully. "But I needed a lump sum of money to set up my electronics repair workshop. So, I decided to take part in this robbery operation."

On March 24, 2015, an old acquaintance of Okonkwo's, a young man he identified simply as Uche, told him to come to Sagamu.

He said, "I knew Uche about four years ago, when we were working at the Seme Border. At the time, I was doing odd jobs while also making money as a pick-pocket.

"Uche left Seme around 2012 and I did not know what he was doing while away. But in February, he came to Seme to buy some clothes and he told me that I should come and visit him in Sagamu.

"The day I went to see him on March 24, he told me of a plan to rob a company along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway. That was the only details he gave me.

"By evening, I followed him to a bush around NASFAT and we hid there. He made a call and three other men joined us. I had not seen them before. Uche opened a leather bag he was carrying and brought out a locally made shotgun and pistol. He held on to one and gave the other to one of the other men. All I held was a machete."

*Saturday PUNCH* learnt that around 2am, the five men proceeded to Olowotodo area where they robbed residents.

He told our correspondent that one of the gang members raped a woman in one of the houses they robbed.

"The woman was with her husband. But he raped the woman there. I did not take part and neither did the others," Okonkwo said.

But residents of Olowotodo had notified one another, it was learnt. Soon, they had all gathered outside

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