

It's less risky to rob in traffic - Suspect

By Christopher Oji

A suspected armed robbery kingpin, simply identified as Salvage, has revealed that all his former gang members were either shot dead by the police during gun battle with the police or are presently serving jail terms.

Salvage and his gang members were recently raiding motorists in traffic at Omole Phase 1, Ojodu area of Lagos metropolis when Policemen attached to the Ojodu Division stormed the scene and accosted the gang.

The gang engaged the Police in a shoot out, and one of the suspects was shot dead while Salvage was arrested.

Two locally made pistols, six live cartridges and one expended cartridges were recovered from the suspect.

Salvage who spoke to *Daily Sun* said: "It was not new to me that my gang member was shot dead. What is paining me now is that I was arrested. I

have witnessed more gun battles than the Ojodu one, yet, I escaped unhurt. I had worked with two different gangs since 2003 when I started this business of robbery. In the first gang, we were six, three were shot dead by the Police and one was jailed while two of us escaped.

"Well, when we survived the onslaught by the police, we formed another gang of five and in less than three years, we encountered the Police thrice. They shot dead two of our members in separate operations and

two others were arrested and jailed in two other operations.

"I escaped the attack by the police and personally formed another gang of six. However, two of our members were killed by the local vigilance group. I still escaped to form a four-man gang. We decided to go into traffic robbery because, it is less risky. We patrol the city on two motorcycles and attack motorists and their passengers in traffic. We would point guns at our victims and ordered them to surrender all their belongings and we would

escape with our loot on motorcycles.

"Sometimes, we made big money. There were times I went home with as big as N100,000 and sometimes, N50,000. I even bought a car from the proceed.

"I am really angry at the Police because, I was planning a big party for the Christmas. How will I be happy when I will be in the cell during the Christmas. Well, I blame myself because I had been so lucky many times. I had escaped arrest and death so many times.

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