

# Soldiers kill 2 suspected robbers in Onitsha

**O**NITSHA—TWO members of a six-man robbery gang terrorising the commercial city of Onitsha, Anambra have been killed by soldiers, while four others escaped.

An eyewitness said that the deceased were shot dead during an exchange of fire between the soldiers and the suspects.

The source said the robbery gang carried out their operation at about 1 a.m. weekend at the former Ogbunike toll gate, on the Enugu/Onitsha expressway.

According to the source, the robbers had boarded a Northern-bound luxury bus for night journey together with other passengers and at the old toll gate, they stopped the vehicle and began their operation.

The source said the robbers fired some gun shots into the air, ordered the passengers to lie down and began to search each passenger.

Some of the passengers, who escaped through the window rushed to the nearby road block mounted by

soldiers and quickly alerted them, the source said.

The soldiers moved to the scene and the robbers on sighting them opened fire and two of the hoodlums were killed during the gun battle, while four others escaped into the bush.

Mr Mathew Uyanna, an Assistant Commissioner of Police and the Area Commander for Onitsha, confirmed the incident.

Uyanna said the bodies of the dead robbers were brought to his command's headquarters by the soldiers.