

Police gun down 2 robbers operating on 'okada'

By Albert Akpor

LAGOS- TWO armed robbery suspects who reportedly specialized in robbing motorists in traffic jam were yesterday gunned down on Liverpool bridge Apapa, Lagos by a team of anti-robbery men led by a Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Apapa, Mr. Mohammed Ali.

The armed gang, a Togolese national and a Nigerian were shot dead while dispossessing unsuspecting motorists of their belongings on the Liverpool bridge. According to sources, the hoodlums numbering four who rode on two motorcycles popularly known as *Okada* were in their usual nefarious act when detectives swooped on them. The robbers on noticing the arrival of the police fired at the team while the policemen returned fire. During the cross fire, two of the bandits were gunned down while others escaped with bullet wounds. At the Apapa Division, corpses of the robbers were displayed at the front of the premises. But before one of the robbers finally gave up the ghost, he gave a GSM telephone number of his father and the police immediately contacted him. He came and identified the corpse.

The Divisional Police Officer told *Saturday Vanguard* that the hoodlums confessed being responsible for various robbery operations along the Oshodi Apapa expressway. According to him, "having been aware that these bad boys always attacked motorists during a long traffic hold up, we went and positioned our patrol van under the Liverpool bridge and took a walk along the road and we noticed four of them dispossessing motorists of their belongings and went after them. This was at about 7.30 pm.

"But when they noticed that we were around, they opened fire at us and my men responded. One of them was shot in the stomach and he quickly mounted his *okada* and sped off while the other one was already on the ground. He did not die immediately. We gave the fleeing robber a chase and met him where he was telling sympathizers that he was attacked by robbers and he was immediately arrested. But he died shortly afterwards as his stomach was already ripped open. His colleague later identified him as a Togolese and said they came all the way from Okokomaiko for the operation."