

Militants bomb Agip flow station

DENNIS NAKU, *Yenagoa*

HOPE that the release of Niger Delta militant leader,

COUNTRYMAN

I'M THE LUCKIEST GUY.
— OMEHIA



Alhaji Mujaheed Asari-Dokubo would bring peace in the troubled oil-rich region seemed dashed, following militants blowing-up of oil flow station in Bayelsa State last Saturday.

In a shoot-out between the militants and government forces, the flow station operated by Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) was said to have been blown up at Ogboinbiri in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area, Bayelsa

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State.

There have been no confirmations by the Italian oil major on the incident but local security sources confirmed the shootout.

The gun battle may be a reprisal attacks from the militants to avenge the killing of nine of their colleagues by the soldiers of the Joint Security Task Force (JTF) at Ogboinbiri on Wednesday.

Prominent militant group, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) had mailed a statement to newsmen through its spokesman, Henry Bomo-Gbomo last week that the nine youths killed by the

Militants

JTF soldiers were not militants, but innocent passengers who were travelling.

In the said statement, Bomo-Gbomo had pointed out that the action of the soldiers would not go unpunished even though his group was not involved in any way.

Confirming the incident to our reporter, Spokesman of the Joint Military Taskforce (JTF), Major Omale Ochugwuba said heavy fighting was going on at the time of filing this report, adding that the militants have ceased the oil flow station; but could not immediately

say whether any casualty has been recorded.

Last Friday, a Polish national working for Dredging Atlantic was kidnapped by suspected militants at Kaima, Headquarters of Kolukoma/Opukuma local government area, Bayelsa State.

Similarly, co-ordinator of Bayelsa Volunteer, an anti-piracy group in the state, Chief Joshua Benemaisia confirmed that the militants chased away the soldiers guarding the oil flow station after a heavy gun duel Sunday morning, saying serious fighting was still on at the time of filing this report.

Benemaisia continued that the militants were still occupying the flow station;

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