



Search

Subscribe Daily Champion Newspapers

[Homepage](#)[About us](#)[Back](#)

Wed, September 17, 2008

Make Daily Champion
Your Homepage /Bookmark

Champion News

Editorial
Opinion
Politics
Sports
Features
Health
Champion -Arts
Columnists
Insurance
Money & Markets
Infotel & Energy
Marketing
&Management
Transport & tours
Foreign scene
View from America
Weblog
Site Map
Shipping news



Countryman



Oil war: Explosions rock Port-Harcourt

•Oil output cut

TONY ITA ETIM, Port Harcourt

Explosions yesterday rocked Port-Harcourt and environs as the Rivers State Joint Task Force, Operation Flush Out 111, said it repelled an attack Tuesday morning on an oil facility belonging to American oil giant, Chevron.

The spots of the explosions could not be identified as at press time.

Spokesman for JTF, Lt. Colonel Sagir Musa said in Port Harcourt that militants in six speed boats attacked Chevron's flow station at 1 am Tuesday but the attack was thwarted by JTF operatives who were on guard at the facility.

He claimed that three boats belonging to the militants "were halted when our troops used RPG rocket propelled gun, to foil the attack, two boats were sunk with all the occupants on board.

"It is greatly and unfortunately feared that many of them might have lost their lives in the process. No damage was done to the flow station."

He said that one soldier was however wounded in the attack.

But spokesman for the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) Jomo Gbomo claimed that only five of its scouts around the Idama flow station in the early hours of yesterday were involved in a minor skirmish with nervous soldiers guarding the station.

Gbomo said: a major crude oil pipeline at Bakana Front in Degema Local Government Area in Rivers state of Nigeria belonging to the Shell Petroleum Development Company was destroyed with high explosives by MEND detonation engineers backed by heavily armed fighters."

But Musa in another statement stated: "To preempt and avoid MEND's senseless propaganda, the Operation Flush Out 111 hereby states that there was no breach to situation throughout yesterday. No facility, national asset or military location was attacked in our area of responsibility. Situation is being closely monitored and is under control."

Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen Tuesday kidnapped a Briton barely 48 hours after the Vice Chancellor of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Professor Bari-neme Fakae was abducted and is where about is yet to be known.

Mr. Mike Welford, a private businessman was kidnapped at Eleme near Port Harcourt Monday evening.

A former staff of Indorama Refinery, who is married to a Nigerian, Welford runs a thriving private business in Rivers State.

No group has claimed responsibility for the abduction and none has contacted his family or former employers.

Spokesman for the Rivers State Joint Task Force, Operation Flush Out 111, Lt. Colonel Sagir Musa confirmed the abduction.

Musa said the identity of the kidnappers is about to be ascertained and no group has claimed responsibility.

He stated that the motive for the kidnapping is pecuniary and efforts are being made to ensure his speedy and safe release.

In a related development, MEND said it received todaya passionate appeal by e-mail from Mrs. Azuka Okah, wife of detained activist, Henry Okah for assistance towards the release of the two South African hostages

who were kidnapped by pirates in Rivers state and rescued by us.

According to an electronic mail signed by Jomo Gbomo, spokesman for MEND, "Azuka Okah, who has arrived into Nigeria to personally press for their release, has informed us of the respect and hospitality she and her children have received in South Africa which she considers home, since the unjust incarceration of her husband in September 3, 2007."

Gbomo stated: "We are impressed by the South African governments respect for the rule of law as some other countries such as Angola or Nigeria would have treated the family differently.

"In consideration of the above, MEND will be reciprocating the gesture by releasing the two hostages to the care of the South African government representative at the earliest convenience after working out the modalities including safety concerns since the creek is now a war zone."

Copyright 2006.All right reserved.Any duplication of our news or document in any format is againg the law.Site license by champion newspapers.Powered by
NigeriaNet