

Police kill bank robbery suspect as JTF nabs pipeline

A bank robbery suspect was killed at the weekend by policemen guarding the premises of a first generation bank at Obollo-Afor in the Udenu LGA of Enugu State.

An eye-witness, who pleaded anonymity, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the suspect attempted to enter the bank with a gun in his pocket but was refused entry by the computerised security door.

He made several attempts to enter through the security door but could not gain access.

When the security men on duty at the bank wanted to search him, he started running which attracted policemen on duty who chased and gunned him down.

The incident created confusion and pandemonium as many customers scamped for safety, the eye-witness told NAN.

When contacted, Mr Onyeama Akaeme, the Divisional Police Officer in Udenu LGA, declined comments, referring NAN to Mr Ebere Amarizu, the Spokesman of the Enugu State Police Command for

comments.

"You know I am not expected to talk to newsmen. Please call Amarizu for his comment on the issue," Akaeme said.

When contacted, Amarizu who confirmed the story, promised to provide full details of the incident later.

Meanwhile, the Military Joint Task Force (JTF) in the Niger Delta has arrested an ex-militant commander, Mr Seiyefa Gbereke, for sabotage on petroleum pipelines.

Gbereke, alias "Gen. Cairo", who is alleged to be a pipeline bomber in the region, was paraded before newsmen in Yenagoa at the weekend by the JTF Media Coordinator, Lt-Col. Onyema Nwachukwu.

Nwachukwu told newsmen that the suspect had confessed that he vandalised numerous pipeline in Delta and Bayelsa.

"The suspect is vicious and notorious in the act of pipeline bombings and vandalism and had been on our radar over the past three months," Nwachukwu said.

According to him, Gbereke confessed during interrogation by JTF

Commander, Maj.-Gen Johnson Ochoga, to the bombing of Agip Manifold and trunk lines at Azagbene and Biseni communities in Bayelsa.

Nwachukwu said he also confessed to the destruction of two oil wells that caused pollution of waters in Berisindi, adding that Gbereke made his confessions "willingly and voluntarily".

He said the suspect also admitted leading his eight-man gang to carry out other pipeline attacks in the creeks of Warri and the destruction of Shell Petroleum Development Corporation (SPDC) pipeline at Tuomo.

The JTF spokesman said that Gbereke, 25, hailed from Bolou Orua community in the Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa.

He said that the suspect had been hiding in Bonny Island in Rivers and Warri in Delta.

"We have been hunting him and his gang; so only yesterday (Thursday) our intelligence operatives tracked him down at Warri in Delta and lured him out of his hideout down to the JTF headquarters here in Yenagoa."