

# Pipeline fire kills 10 in Jalingo

**T**en persons died in Kona village in Jalingo local government area of Taraba state in a petroleum pipeline fire that broke out while vandals were scooping fuel from a vandalized pipeline.

The incident occurred at the weekend following a sharp disagreement amongst a gang of vandals who had vandalized a pipeline to scoop fuel.

One of the youths identified as Monday, was said to have threatened to set the vandalized spot on fire if he was not allowed to get his own share of the fuel.

Eye witness told *Daily Trust* that Monday, made good his threat and set the scooping point ablaze, leading to the death of the people while five others sustained severe burns.

The corpses of six of the victims were recovered immediately while four other

From Fidelis Mac-Leva,  
*Jalingo*

corpses trapped in the pit where the vandals were scooping fuel could not be brought out because of the intensity of the inferno.

Taraba state police public relations officer, Ata Jiri, confirmed the incident but said only five people were confirmed dead while five others were seriously burnt and are receiving treatment.

The PPRO said no arrest has been made because the police on getting to the scene of the incident was concerned about the immediate need to rescue lives.

He also confirmed that the person who allegedly ignited the fire following a threat (Monday) was among the dead.

Taraba state Deputy Governor, Armayau Abubakar, who promptly visited the area, sympathized

with families of the victims and warned youths to desist from such dangerous acts.

"Government will not hesitate to deal ruthlessly with anybody engaging in such nefarious acts," Armayau warned.

The Deputy Governor also visited the District Head of Kona, Mr. Augustine Njenmang and assured that government will do everything possible to check the growing activities of pipeline vandals in the area.

Responding the District Head commended security operatives for their role to curtail the activities of vandals in the area but lamented that the youths have defied several warnings to desist.

Similar incidents of pipeline vandalism have occurred in Wukari and Gassol local government areas of Taraba state in recent times.

## Akuma Tsay trade words