

# Pipeline vandalization: Student killed, 2 others arrested

A 400 level student of the Nassarawa state University, Keffi, Babangida Aliyu was Monday gunned down by the police when he was alleged to have led 13 others to vandalise an NNPC pipeline at Awawa in Kwali area council of the FCT and was siphoning fuel.

One other suspected vandal from the group, Saidu Labaran was arrested while 12 others escaped. Most of the youths in the village have fled to avoid arrest leaving only the aged, women and children. The village has been thrown into a state of mourning and uncertainty.

Conducting newsmen round the scene of the vandalization, FCT Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Elisha Akitinkpan said two pipes at both Awawa in Kwali area council and Abaji, the capital of Abaji area council in the FCT have been vandalized.

He said one Yusuf Aliyu has been arrested in Abaji in connection with the vandal-

**By Shehu Abubakar**

ization of the pipe in Abaji. About 104 jerry cans of different sizes some of them with fuel siphoned from the broken pipes, were recovered by the police.

At the time of filing this report, fuel was still gushing out from the pipes at the two vandalized portions even though the station supervisor of the NNPC pumping station at Awawa, Mr. Monday Itue said repair work on the vandalized pipes will soon commence.

Briefing newsmen on the details of the operation, ASP Akitinkpan said a joint team of police operation farauta of the FCT command and men of the pipeline taskforce on vandalization led by ASP Sunday Ali accosted the vandals around 12 midnight on October 2 this year but the vandals ran into the tick bush before they were arrested.

"The team drove away only to return quietly on foot and laid ambush for them. The vandals believing that the police have left, returned

to the scene and filled a lot of jerry cans from the broken pipes with fuel and were carrying the jerry cans away when the police accosted them.

"Those carrying the jerry cans abandoned them and ran away while the armed men amongs them opened fire on the police. The police equally returned fire. In the process, one of them was shot and killed while about 4 were believed to have sustained gun injury," Akitinkpan had said.

He alleged that the pipelines that pass through the

area are being frequently vandalized because most of the youths in the area are involved in pipeline vandalization.

Speaking exclusively with the suspects at the Kwali police station where they are being detained, Saidu Labaran said 14 of them including the deceased went to syphon fuel from a broken pipe.

He mentioned the names of the 12 other members of his gang who are now at large and said the gang members usually sell the stolen

fuel to motorists by the roadside at Abaji at the sum of N400 for a 4 liter gallon.

However, Yusuf Aliyu who was arrested at Abaji denied taking part in vandalization of pipeline or siphoning of fuel from any broken pipe.

But he mentioned the names of some youths to the police who he said were pipeline vandals.

ASP Akitinkpan said the case will be handed over to the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) for proper investigation today.

## Lawyer, other docked for falsifying landed property

**By Janet Zadok**

An Abuja based lawyer allegedly sold a land worth millions of naira which did not belong to him, an Abuja magistrate court heard yesterday.

The accused, Mr Eze Nwereji of No.81 Oduduwa Street Kubwa and one Samuel Egbabun of No.15 old Maitama, Kubwa, Abuja still at large, were said to have

forged a land title document in a bid to dishonestly sell a plot which did not belong to him for N7.5 million.

Omar properties limited bought the plot in Kubwa Commercial area in 2003.

They also gave false information to mislead a public office in the course of his duty. The accused denied the

allegations.

The presiding magistrate, Ajoke Adepoju granted the accused bail in the terms and conditions of N4 million and a surety in the same amount, the surety must be a civil servant in Abuja FCT, and must have a landed property worth millions of naira, and adjourned the case till November 1, 2006 for hearing.