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JTF kills two militants, unaware of attack on Turkish vessel

Written by Muhammad Bello , Port Harcourt

THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2009

Two suspected militants have been killed while three have been arrested during a clash with the Joint Task Force in Degema local government area of Rivers state.

The militant group that was crushed by the JTF was led by a self-acclaimed repentant militant leader from Rivers State. In the ensuing battle, they were overpowered and forced to retreat. Those arrested are Dasobobo Dawan, Pekribo Georgewill and Emi Alaibo...

Confirming the attack, the Coordinator, Joint Media Campaign Centre, Colonel Rabe Abubakar, said the attackers were from the camp of a prominent repentant-militant leader in the region. This fact emerged after the three captured militants confessed during questioning that they were sent to carry out attacks on innocent prominent personalities and JTF men deployed in the area, when they were intercepted following credible information from a reliable source.

Similarly, in the militants' efforts to avenge their colleagues' misfortune and probably to rescue the arrested ones from JTF custody, a reprisal attack was carried out by the same group yesterday, in three speed boats. The attack was thwarted by the troops of the security out-fit. The militants fled with various degrees of injuries. No soldier was injured or killed, the JTF said.

In a related development, (JTF) has denied any knowledge of an alleged attack on a Turkish operated supply vessel about 50 nautical miles off. Onne Port, near Port Harcourt.

Col. Abubakar told our correspondent over the phone that "we are not aware of the occurrence of any such incident around the area in question. As a matter of fact, when we got wind of it from unverified sources, we spread our tentacles wide by detailing our men to comb the area."

They did and reported that noth ing like that has happened," Lt. Col. Abubakar said.



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