

eration Agency (JICA), Mr. Hiroshi Kato (middle), Chief Representative, JICA Nigeria Office, Mr. Tetsuo Seki, during their visit to NCWD.

JTF arrests kidnapper's armourer, others in Delta

From Willie Etim, Yenagoa

AUTHORITIES of the Joint Military Task Force (JTF) code-named *Operation Pulo Shield* yesterday announced the arrest of Pearce Oyikobat, the armourer to the arrested Niger Delta most wanted criminal and kidnap kingpin, Kelvin Ibruvwe.

Oyikobat, who was declared wanted alongside Ibruvwe and others last year, was arrested at Okpara Inland in Ethiope-East Local Council Area of Delta State.

According to a statement issued by the Head, Joint Media Centre of the JTF, Lt.-Col.

Mustapha Anka, "The suspect has been on the run as he was alleged to be the armourer of a notorious kidnap kingpin, Mr. Kelvin Ibruvwe, who has since been handed to the Police for proper prosecution".

The operatives of the JTF, had in a separate operation, foiled an attempt by a group of suspected kidnappers to abduct a woman at Eku in Ethiope-East Local Council Area of the state.

According to JTF, "This was as a result of a distress call, which we intervened in conjunction with the Nigeria Police, to rescue the victim

unhurt. The rescue operation witnessed was a gun duel that claimed the life of a suspect while others escaped. Items recovered include one Berretta pistol, a locally-made short barrel gun and a mask."

"The corpse of the suspect and recovered items were handed over to the Police at Isiokolo in Ethiope-East Local Council Area of the state. Similarly, the JTF on a tip-off rescued an employee of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Mr. Johnson Erewa, from being kidnapped. Suspects that attempted the kidnap were

handed over to the Police."

Meanwhile, the Joint Military Task Force (JTF) announced that it has recorded a series of success in its activities against illegal oil bunkering in the Niger Delta region with the discovery of an illegal oil refinery at Eg-bokodo Itshekiri general area in Warri South-West Local Council Area of the state.

According to a statement by Lt.-Col. Mustapha Anka, the items recovered in the security operations include three locally-made boats, one pumping machine and a water hose.