

## Five feared killed in Army, pipeline vandals clash

By Odita Sunday

**T**HERE was apprehension in Ibafo and Arepo axis on Lagos-Ibadan Expressway yesterday following heavy shootings between operatives of the Nigerian Navy and Army elements and petroleum pipeline vandals.

Five vandals were allegedly feared dead during the clash.

Eyewitness told *The Guardian* that the incident caused commuters, motorists and residents to run for dear lives.

"The clash was between military people and the black-market sellers. So, many people were killed during the clash. The oil thieves attempted to send military personnel out of the area by attacking them with guns but the military resisted and fought back", the eyewitness said.

Meanwhile, the Ogun State Police Command boss, Abdulmajid Ali, told *The Guardian* on telephone that he was aware of the shooting, saying the military operatives did not carry the police along.

"There was heavy shooting. It is a clash between the Army and petroleum vandals," he said.

Besides, the Assistant Director of Army Public Relations in charge of 81 Division, Lt-Col. Kingsley Samuel told *The Guardian* that he was not aware of the shooting.

But when *The Guardian* contacted Naval spokesman in Lagos, Lieutenant Commander Abdulkadir, he noted that the operation was carried out by Nigerian defence elements from the Defence Headquarters and not the Western Naval Command.