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Bloody Easter: 16 Militants, Naval Rating Killed In Bayelsa

*37 Perish In Auto Crashes

By Emma Gbemudu (Yenagoa) and Dele Moses (Ilorin)

Road accidents claimed at least 37 lives in Ilorin and Katsina on Sunday, besides the 24 who died in Kano and Owerri in the run up to Easter.

And tragedy hit Igbomatoru and Nembe in Bayelsa State, where 16 militants and a Naval rating were killed between Sunday night and Monday morning in gun battles with the Joint Task Force (JTF).

Ten militants, two Naval men, and one soldier were injured in the attacks, in which the JTF sank four speed boats belonging to armed youths.

It was learnt that 20 militants travelling in six boats were returning from their hide-out after robbing and raping victims in Okilo creek, Igbomatoru.

Based on a tip off, JTF personnel were on the alert as the militants closed in on their location and fired gun shots as troops defended an Agip facility and themselves at Tebidaba flow station.

JTF Spokesman, Rabe Abubakar, said the JTF returned fire, resulting in the sinking of four boats belonging to the militants.

He added that "the leader of the militants, Ogunbos, was responsible for attacks and destruction of houseboats belonging to Daewoo Nigeria employees stationed at Igbomatoru working for Agip.

"This and other heinous crimes committed by (Ogunbos) and his unpatriotic men made the JTF - being a custodian of security of life and property in

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the Niger Delta - to pledge to trail him and apprehend him, so as to serve as a deterrent to others.

"However, our actions are not retaliatory but for enforcing peace and order in the region."

Abubakar noted that another attack on Monday by another militant group, led by Kitikata and Fara Dagogo, at a Nembe facility owned by Shell was a reprisal against the killing of the eight militants.

He said a Naval man was killed, two received inquiries, and the attackers stole four speed boats belonging to Shell.

He disclosed that the JTF is hunting for the militants "who would pay dearly in the event of any other attack on locations and economic facilities, as we have resolved to carry out a decisive and appropriate response within the provision of our mandate."

Twenty four deaths in the road accidents took place at Kanbi village near Ilorin when two buses collided in trying to avoid hitting a commercial motorcyclist. Ten passengers received injuries.

An eyewitness said the accident occurred at the night when the motorcyclist crossed the road.

Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) officials from Jebba rescued the survivors and evacuated the dead.

In Katsina State, 13 members of a family, including women and children, died in an accident at Dungun-Ma'azu village on the Funtua-Dandume Road.

They were returning from a wedding in Minna.

Eye witnesses said the tyre of their vehicle got burst and led to the crash. Only the driver and the conductor survived.

Abdulbasir Kafinta, who lost his wife and daughter, described the incident as an act from Allah.

Six other persons died in another road accident on Saturday in Malumfashi, Katsina State.

OTHER ARTICLES IN THIS SECTION

- Bloody Easter: 16 Militants, Naval Rating Killed In Bayelsa
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- Daniel Lacks Respect For Party Elders, Constitution - Reps
- Nwodo Returns To PDP As South East Holds Zonal Conference



Presidential Pardon Long Overdue

There is a lot that is admirable about the Presidential flag bearer of the United States Republican Party in last year's pivotal presidential elections, Senator John McCain. His remarkable concession speech full of grace and Élan will long be

Op-Ed/ Comments

Of Private Jets And Lot's Wives

Various arguments have been put forward for and against the issue of procurement of a N4 billion jet by the General Overseer of The Redeemed Christian Church of God, Pastor Enoch Adejare Adeboye. It is interesting that, following the biblical injunctions in

The New Minimum Wage: How To Fight And Win (1)

Apparently to underline its commitment to secure a new minimum wage for workers, the National Executive Council of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), on March 10, issued a 21-day ultimatum to the government "to open discussion with it on the proposed

Still On Gov Obi's Sense Of Justice

Is there anyone who still questions the power of the written word or the mass media? Let such a person reflect on the simple fact that Anambra State Governor Peter Obi, perceived as self-willed, rushed to Ihiala, Nigeria's largest local government area, on

Columnist

Conversation of an Angry man

Between Atiku Abubakar

BETWEEN ATIKU ABUBAKAR And Umaru Yar'ardua

Is Alhaji Atiku Abubakar also among the prophets? He recently prophesized that the Public Disorder Practitioners (oh! I keep making the same mistake time and again, no wonder my former teacher used to call me a "certified dunce," I mean the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) will self-destruct in a few years.

Candour's Niche Nigeria: Good People, Great Nation?

Penultimate week, I started what ought to be a two-part serial on happenings in the political arena as politicians and their hangers-on gear up for 2011.

Scruples Dora, This Is Becoming Too Ridiculous!

If before the end of this year it becomes clear that the sterling performance of Dr. Dora Akunyili as Director General of the National Agency For Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has been completely erased from the people's mind

The Roundtable Gov. Fashola: And The Woman Died

A newspaper story titled 'A Commissioner's Missing Jewelries and the Tragic Hunt' caught my attention very recently.

Speaking Out A Naked Dance In Daylight

For six months or so now, the report of the House of Representatives Panel on the Power Sector (or Scandal, if you like) Probe has failed to grace the chambers of the exalted house. For weeks, each time the report made a slow movement to the chamber, a concerted effort was there to block its path.

Independent Opinion Poll

Do You Support The Decision
For President To Retain The
Power To Appoint The Chairman
Of INEC ?

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