

JTF recovers remains of expatriate

THE Joint Military Task Force (JTF) has recovered the remains of an expatriate worker in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The body was found floating on Ogbogoro River by the local people who contacted the task force.

While it was difficult to establish his nationality as at press time, it was believed that the victim of the Niger Delta crisis was one Dave Worth, a Briton.

Worth, who was kidnapped sometime last month, along NTA Road in the Garden City, was the only kidnapped expatriate still in custody of the militants. The state police commissioner, Mr. Felix Ogbuagu and Major Sagir Musa, spokesman for the JTF confirmed the story.

Musa told newsmen in Port Harcourt yesterday that scientific method would be employed to identify the nationality.

Meanwhile, men of the JTF have arrested persons suspected to be involved in



•L-R: The Executive Director of Afri Bank Plc, Mr Chinedu Onyia, the Group Managing Director, Mr Sebastine Adigwe and Head, Corporate Affairs, Mr Lanre Alabi at the commissioning of the South East zonal headquarters of the bank in Enugu. PHOTO: CLETUS OBI

From Clarice Azutalam

the killing of some chiefs in Ogbogoro community, Obio-Akpor Local Government Area of the State. They were arrested when JTF stormed the three communities of Ogbogoro, Ozuoba, and Rumuekini in search of the killers.

Spokesman of JTF in Port Harcourt, Major Musa, who confirmed the arrest of the six youths said that three of the suspects were picked up from Ogbogoro community, while the remaining were apprehended in their hideouts in Numuekini.

Following the heavy presence of soldiers in these communities, especially Ogbogoro, the residents have deserted it to avoid being caught in the man-

hunt mounted by the soldiers.

The JTF were dispatched to stabilise tension resulting from the killing of the chiefs on Thursday by suspected cultists.

Though not the first time the community has been embroiled in crises, but this fresh one was said to have started last Wednesday when the chiefs of the community gathered and performed some rituals to sanitise the place of cultism and violent crimes.

In doing that, they were able to fish out three boys suspected to have been involved in the kidnapping of a bank manager and handed them over to men of JTF. Their other partners in crime were said to have gone into hiding on hearing of this.

By the next day, these boys came out from hiding and went straight to the council of chiefs chambers where the chiefs were still

meeting and killed about six of them for betraying them.

Among those killed were the paramount ruler of the community, Chief Richard Amadi, who was also a one-time lecturer with the state college of education, one Doctor Wali, and four others.

But the commissioner of police, Mr Felix Ogbuagu, told *The Nation* that five persons were killed contrary to earlier reports that six were mowed down by the boys. The five persons, Ogbuagu said, included Amadi, Wali and three women.

The CP also said that no arrest had been made in connection with the killing "but we have identified the arrowhead of the attack."

The fears of these soldiers have made the community people to start fleeing the place for places like Choba and Rumuoparaeli within the LGA.

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