

Militants kill Colombian, abduct two other expatriates in Port Harcourt

UNKNOWN gunmen struck at the Rumuolumeni office of Saipem Nigeria Limited, Port Harcourt yesterday, killing one expatriate worker. Two others were taken away.

The attack came about four days after the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) threatened to resume hostilities on the facilities and personnel of multinational companies in the oil-rich Niger Delta. But the movement yesterday denied having a hand in the attack.

From Clarice Azuatalam,
Port Harcourt

In this latest attack, which is suspected to have been carried out by the militant group, a Colombian, Mr Henry Tornado, was shot dead. An Australian and a Filipino were taken hostage amidst heavy shooting at the company's premises, close to NNS Pathfinder, a naval base in Port Harcourt. Saipem is a subsidiary of the oil firm Eni.

Sources told *The Nation* that the armed assailants, numbering about seven and dressed in army and navy uniforms, stormed the

company at about 2:00pm. They shot their way through its security to seize their victims, it was learnt.

Police spokesperson Mrs. Ireju Barasua (DSP) said the assailants stormed the company through the waterway.

Efforts to reach the spokesman of the military Joint Task Force (JTF) and the Public Relations Officer of the 2 Amphibious Brigade in Port Harcourt, Major Sagir Musa, were unsuccessful. He was said not to be available in the office when *The Nation* called. Maj. Musa later confirmed the incident to some journalists.