

Police: militants planned to loot armoury

THE militants, who raided Bomadi, headquarters of riverside Bomadi Local Government Area of Delta State, killing two policemen, including a sergeant, intended to hijack and loot the armoury, it was learnt yesterday.

The Police announced the arrest of five suspects and vowed "not to relent until we recover our gun".

The militants were desperate to steal weapons from the armoury, the Police added.

Besides, two policemen were killed in the failed heist.

One of the guards at the entrance of the armoury in the Ijaw community (name withheld) was shot at close range by the gunmen, who invaded the station in a

•Five suspects arrested

From Shola O'Neil, Warri

convoy of vehicles.

The service pistol of the dead policeman was taken away by the hoodlums whose plan to hijack the armoury was frustrated by troops of the Joint Task Force (JTF), code-named "Operation Restore Hope".

Police spokesman Ishaku Banawi, an Assistant Superintendent (ASP), said the arsenal is "intact".

He said the armoury is well fortified.

"They would have to

'Banawi said the target of the hoodlums was the deceased sergeant's pistol, noting that after shooting him, they retrieved it and fled'

burn down the entire station to get to the armoury," he said.

Banawi said the target of

the hoodlums was the deceased sergeant's pistol, noting that after shooting him, they dispossessed him of it and fled.

Investigations by *The Nation* revealed that the militants later attacked a patrol van, where they shot and killed another policeman in the wee hours of the day.

Soldiers, however, halted the incursion of the armed gang into other parts of the town.

The interim Chairman of the council, K.O Preyo, denied that the attack on Bomadi police station was carried out by militants,

insisting that it was the handiwork of unknown criminals.

But Banawi disagreed. He insisted in a telephone interview that the bandits were "not armed robbers, they did not steal anything they only killed the guard and took away his service gun".

He confirmed that the armed men opened fire on another police team on patrol, killing one of the men on the spot.

Banawi said the command would arrest the suspects, adding that five persons were already in police net.

Ibora's assets remain frozen, London court rules

