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JTF operatives kill soldier, two others in Warri

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By [Shola O'Neil](#)

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Delta State Police Command yesterday launched investigation into the killing of three persons, a soldier and two civilians, by troops of the Joint Task Force (JTF) at the DSC/Aladja Road.

Two other persons – a soldier and another victim – are receiving treatment after soldiers allegedly shot at a vehicle they thought was conveying fleeing armed robbers.

Although the circumstances surrounding the Tuesday shooting were still unclear at press time, it was gathered that the victims were shot when they allegedly refused to stop at the military checkpoint.

Unconfirmed accounts of the shooting indicated that the victims were shot in error because the troops had earlier been tipped off about the activities of a robbery gang operating in the area.

But police spokesman Charles Muka said it was too early to ascertain if the victims, including an architect, were killed in error.

He said the JTF operatives had been alerted about a robbery gang before the shooting occurred, adding that arms and ammunition were recovered from the vehicle in which the soldier and other victims were travelling.

He said: "They were caught with various arms. Whether they were erroneously killed, I do not know because investigation is still on."

Investigations revealed that the two soldiers were being used by a civilian to secure a refund of his money from the architect, adding that the shooting occurred when the soldiers refused to stop on their way to deliver the arrested man to their 'employer'.

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