

2 killed in militants' attack on police stations

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THE militants in the Niger Delta at the weekend killed two persons and wounded several others when they attacked two police stations in the heart of Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The militants burnt down seven police vehicles at the Central Police Station and the state CID where they stormed and released 21 suspects including one Soboma George detained in the cell by the police.

Several other vehicles and shops at Sokoto Street where the two police stations are located were damaged by the militants numbering over 50 and armed with sophisticated weapons.

An eye witness account said the militants came to Port Harcourt waterfront in over seven out-board engine boats and trekked over three kilometers to get to the police stations sharing the same premises.

New Nigerian learnt that the militants used grenade, guns and dynamite during the operation which lasted about four hours without resistance.

It was gathered that the militants' mission was to forcefully release Mr. Soboma George, described as one of

their leaders, who was being detained by the police.

Speaking to newsmen in Port Harcourt, yesterday, the state Commissioner of police, Mr. Felix Ogbaudu confirmed the attack on the two police stations by the militants and described the incident as unfortunate.

Ogbaudu said the militants used sophisticated weapons and could not be challenged, adding that the police exchanged gun shots with the militants before they stormed the police stations.

The police boss asserted that Soboma George was arrested and detained by the police for a traffic offence, adding that the state Police Command would make efforts to re-arrest the 21 suspects released by the militants.

Ogbaudu called for cooperation from members of the public in combating the militants, adding that "combating the militants is a collective responsibility of the society and not the police alone."

Meanwhile, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) has claimed responsibility for the attack.