

MILITANTS SACK POLICE POST, KILL 2 OFFICERS

From, UCHENNA
NWAFOR, Yenagoba

BARELY 24 hours after President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua led some party stalwarts to Bayelsa for the flag-off campaign of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), suspected militants invaded a police post, killing two officers at Okiki, Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State on Sunday morning.

The youths also were said to have broken into the local armoury near the office of the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) and carted away unspecified number of arms and ammunition.

Ogbia is the local govern-

chinmi Nigerians

and kindness from my fellow countrymen and women.

"I arrived on Saturday, May 10, 2008 from London where I had been receiving medical treatment for lung cancer.

"I have been given a medically advised break in my treatment. Hence, my stay in the country is going to be temporary and short before I go back," he stated.

"I will continue to battle this deadly disease of lung cancer despite the pain and pangs it entails, with determination and courage that I can muster."

Fawehinmi, however, said that he believed that with the prayers and support of Nigerians and God's intervention, the best would be achieved.

ment of the Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan.

Although the immediate cause of the attack could not be ascertained as at the time of filing this report, reliable sources had it that the incident occurred about 4am on Sunday when the youths had stormed the Okiki police post in a commando style with sophisticated weapons, shooting sporadically, chasing away the officers on duty.

It was further gathered that the militants came through a nearby creek which runs into the River Nun in three speed boats and dashed to the police post; even as a security source said the mission of the youths was merely to snatch arms and ammunition; saying they were compelled to shoot due to resistance from some of the officers.

Further investigations showed that the police officers on duty were taken unawares, even as a belated attempt to resist the militants culminated in the killing of the two officers whose ranks are still unknown as at press time.

Confirming the incident to newsmen at his office, the state JTF Commander, Lt. Colonel Christopher Musa said he was yet to get the details, while the state Chairman of the Niger Delta Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee, Mr. James Jephther believes that those behind the attack are not militants.

The Committee Chairman in a press statement made available to newsmen

through his press officer, Mr. Alphine Ogo, described the killing as an act of criminality by unknown gunmen.

According to the statement, "no militant group in Bayelsa would want to carry out such an attacks against any government security agency considering the existing working relationship they have with the state government. Militants in the state are currently helping government to identify and report cases of sea piracy and pipeline vandals."

"Considering past events in the state criminals can easily take advantage of the prevailing peace to commit crimes that could easily be related to acts of militancy. Sea pirates, armed robbers and oil pipe lines vandals are equally capable of attacking government security agents," Jephther added.

Meanwhile, the state Com-

missioner of police, Mr. Julian Okpaleke went into a security meeting which lasted for

hours, although his spokesman, Iniobong Ibokkete had confirmed the killing.



MR. MIKE OKIRO ... Police I-G

Prisons decongestion: 250 inmates moved from Ikoyi to Maximum Prison

From IYOKPO J. EGBODO,
Abuja

IN continuation of the prisons decongestion programme, Controllor General of Prisons Mr. Olusola Ogundipe has ordered the removal of 250 awaiting trial inmates from Ikoyi to the Maximum Security Prison in Lagos.

According to him, the Ikoyi prison originally designed to accommodate 580 inmates presently has over 2,000, majority of them awaiting trial, saying the exercise would be

replicated in other prisons around the country, especially in the urban centres.

He said in line with the decongestion exercise, the Minister of Interior, Maj-General Godwin Abbe (rtd) was to commission the newly completed 240-bed block meant for awaiting trial inmates at the Medium Security Prison in Kuje yesterday.

"This has become necessary in order to create space

for the inmates and also ensure that they live in hygienic environment during their stay in the prison," Ogundipe said.

The Controllor General explained that congestion has been hampering prisons administration with regards to the rehabilitation of inmates, adding that he will not relent until the reforms are done to meet international Minimum Standard Rules for the treatment of offenders.