

know why they allowed their suspects were arrested, while ment read.

20 burn to death in Bayelsa illegal refinery inferno

AUSTIN EBIPADE - YENAGOA

RAGING inferno from an illegal refinery camp in Kolo Creek, Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, has led to the death of no fewer than 20 persons,

while three others sustained serious injuries.

It was gathered that tragedy struck in the camp, tucked in the creeks of Ebelibiri and Otuogwe, when it exploded on December 5.

The fire was said to have

spread quickly, consuming almost everybody in the camp except three persons.

Sources said an attempt by a woman in the camp to cook noodles using a stove sparked the fire that wreaked the havoc.

A source, who visited the scene of the disaster, described it as tragic, unspeakable and avoidable.

"When we got there, I almost vomited. I saw charred remains of people.

"They were burnt beyond recognition. In some cases, you could only see heads and feet of victims," the source who spoke in confidence said.

It was learnt that the camp had been in operation for a long time.

Investigation also revealed that the state police command had earlier appealed to security agencies in charge of oil theft especially NSCDC and the JTF to clamp down the site and arrest operators.

A highly-placed police source, who spoke in confidence to the *Nigerian Tribune*, said the Commissioner of Police uncovered the existence of the camp through intelligence gathering and warned of consequences.

Commercial driver

Police

driver.

Adeyemi said the suspect, whose name he gave as Corporal Ayodele Famodimu, had been arrested and is "already facing departmental orderly room trial."

According to Adeyemi, a Superintendent of Police,

"his name is Corporal Ayodele Famodimu and his departmental orderly room trial has already started.

"When the trial is concluded, he will be dismissed after which he would be charged to court," Adeyemi said.

ficking in Kogi

Lokoja.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP William Aya, who confirmed the development to newsmen, said the affected officers had since left the service.

He said that NDLEA would soon arraign the officers in court, adding that their dismissal followed

due process.

The drug was conveyed in a Toyota Picnic car with registration number Kogi KNA 185 LG when it was intercepted by NDLEA operatives.

The policeman who escorted the vehicle was arrested along with two other accomplices as well as the driver of the vehicle.

dicade in Abia, arrests 5

kidnapping operations last November, and were involved in three kidnappings in Aba, Abia State, collecting ransoms of N250,000, N1m and N5.5m equivalent in dollars.

"The suspects confessed to random kidnapping, based on the nature of the vehicle being driven by their targets.

"The suspects are, Samuel Chikaodi James aka Chiboy

(29), who is also the driver of the operational vehicles used during operations; he is also the negotiator of ransoms and does the pick ups. He received N3 million as his share of the ransom.

"Justice Iriah aka Mopol (23), snatched and secured the hostages in the vehicle up to the kidnap den. He received N300,000.

"Ikechukwu Igwebuike

aka *Anambra* (22), also assisted in securing the hostages. He also received N300,000.

"Chikachi Ubani (30), was in charge of the detention camp where hostages were kept, while Chineye Mark (45), a panel beater, hid their operation vehicle in his workshop. He received N150,000 as his share of the ransom," the source said.