

appeal brought before it by Alhaji Maroof Adekunle Magbagbeola and 11 others

arose from the state government's handling of Magbagbeola's appointment

among the two nominees should succeed the deceased king.

supported the innocence of Ikuforiji.

JTF shoots suspect behind killing of soldiers

AUSTIN EBIPADE - YENAGOA

THE Joint Task Force (JTF) deployed to the Niger Delta on Friday announced that its troops has arrested and subsequently killed a suspected militant and mastermind of the kidnap of four British missionaries and aid workers in Delta.

The joint force in a statement issued by its Spokesman Major Ibrahim Abdullahi said the suspect who was also behind the beheading of a security official was rounded up in an operation code named OPERATION

EMBER SAFE.

Residents of Ndoro community in Ekeremor Local Government Area of Bayelsa on January 4, 2018 fled the area following the alleged beheading of a security operative by militants.

Abdullahi noted that one of the British medical aid workers, Mr Ian Squire reportedly died in the kidnappers' den in 2017.

"This operation was aimed at tackling the security challenges posed to safety of lives and critical oil and gas facilities in the region.

"The 7-day clearance

operation was led by the Commander of JTF Rear Admiral Apochi Suleiman to sanitize the region of militants, cultists, sea robbers, kidnappers and other criminals.

"During the operation, precisely on Thursday 11 January 2018, a notorious militant leader Peregbakumo Oyawerikumo also known as 'Karowei' and his criminal gang were arrested.

"It could be recalled that Mr Karowei and his criminal gang abducted four British Missionaries on 13th October 2017 in Burutu Local

Government Area of Delta which led to the unfortunate death of one of the Britons, Late Mr Ian Squire.

"Karowei and his gang were also responsible for several abductions/kidnappings, robberies and raping of innocent women in the region including unprovoked attacks on military locations in Delta and Bayelsa States.

"Also on 7th January 2018, Karowei and his gang attacked our troops at Bolu Ndoro forest which led to the death of four military personnel.