

Suspected militants behead military informant, kill 3 others in A'lbom

INI OBONG EKPONTA - UYO

HOODLUMS suspected to be militants have killed a military informant during a shootout with a combined team of security agents, during a raid on the militants' hideout by the Joint Task Force (JTF) in Etim Ekpo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

The incident, *Nigerian Tribune* gathered, happened in Obon Ebot village on Sunday, when the JTF stormed the community to arrest wanted militants' leader, popularly called 'Aboy Ikpor' and members of his gang, who led the Ikot Ekpene prison break, in which no fewer than 40 inmates escaped last month.

According to a source, Akpan Udotim, a resident of Ikot Unna village, "the militants ambushed the soldier, who was in a camouflage, captured and killed him. They chopped-off his head and later dumped his headless body at Urua Obo Inyang market."

It was also gathered that

had to relocate his family to a safer place in Ukanafun, but only returned to work on his

farm when he was abducted by the hoodlums," the source added.

When contacted via phone, the Assistant Director in-charge of Public Relations

at the 2 Brigade, Nigerian Army, Major Shuaib Umar, could only reply through a

short message (SMS), saying: "I am in a meeting."

However, the Commander of the JTF team in-charge of Etim Ekpo, Ukanafun, Oruk Anam, Ika and Ikot Abasi Local Government Areas, Major Mohammed Hussaini, who led the operation, confirmed the incident, but denied the dead person was a soldier.

According to him, "the dead person was just our informant and we gave him military camouflage to wear so that he could lead us to the militants' camp."

"They were three and we gave them military uniform to wear when we wanted to storm the camp of the militants to capture some of the suspects who escaped from the Ikot Ekpene prison, but when he heard gunshots, out of fear, he attempted to escape and he was hit by bullets," the commander explained.



One of the police officers (right), accused of involvement in the killing of a cab driver, David Okoniba, which led to the clash between youths and police, testifying before the Justice Joseph Olubor-led Administrative Panel of Inquiry on the Youths, Police Clash, in Benin City, Edo State.

Police conduct autopsy on slain cab driver in Edo

ABI ODUN JIMOH - BENIN-CITY

THE Edo State Police Com-

curred.

However, the state police boss explained that the result of the autopsy would

"Every death that is quite unnatural and has come to the knowledge of the police must undergo an autopsy;

through an accident, through any means, the moment the matter is subject of investigation and possibly litigation

pathologist and tenderable in court. That is the essence of it. The result should be out, but