

outrage as militants kill 2 mobile policemen, injure 1 in A'lbom

OBONG EKPONTA - UYO

ANGRY youths and women, mostly widows, who have lost husbands and relatives in siege by militants in Ekpo and Ukanafun Government Areas, Ikwia Ibom State, have held mass protest against unrestrained killings in the affected areas.

This followed the ambush of two mobile policemen at the Mkporkpo portion of the Abak- Etim Ekpo-Ikwia highway on Saturday, leading to the death of two mobile policemen. The leader of the group survived with bullet wounds.

It was learnt the three mobile policemen attached to the Ikwia police station were on an errand to Uyo, on the orders of a superior officer, who was recently transferred from Uyo, the state capital, to his new post at Iwukem police station.

The three mobile policemen were directed to go to Uyo, the state capital, to pack the household belongings of their superior officer, who had recently transferred to his new post at Iwukem police station.

On their way back, they suddenly came face-to-face with militants. What we did next was see police, and the next was

sporadic gunshots with several bullets fired directly at the van.

"Two unarmed officers were shot dead instantly, while the superior officer, who was the only one with gun, shot sporadically in self-defense and escaped with bullet wounds.

"The heavy shooting by the militants forced the driver of the van to veer off

the road into the nearby bush before the militants pumped more bullets into his already perforated body," an eyewitness, Mfon Akpan Essien, told the **Nigerian Tribune** in Obong Ntak village, few metres to the scene of the incident.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Odiko Macdon Og-

beche, who confirmed the incident, said the officers were returning from Uyo en-route their base in Iwukem.

The injured officer, according to the police spokesman, had been receiving treatment at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital (UUTH), where he was im-

mediately rushed to.

The Commissioner of Police (CP), Mr Adeyemi Ogunjemilusi, the PPRO added, had ordered an intense manhunt for the perpetrators and urged the civil society to volunteer information on suspicious characters in their neighbourhoods.

"The state police command is on intensive man-

hunt for the gunmen. The CP is very angry about it and has taken steps to ensure the perpetrators are apprehended and brought to book," he said.

Customs seize 420 bags of rice hidden under gravel stones

TOLA ADENUBI - LAGOS

ONE week after the zonal command of the Customs Comptroller General's Strike Force intercepted 3,000 bags of rice in Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State, another seizure of 420 bags, concealed under gravel stones in Saki, Oyo State, has been made by the Strike Force.

Disclosing this to newsmen in Lagos, the National Coordinator of the Customs CG's Strike Force, Abdullahi Kirawa, a Deputy Controller, said that the bags of rice were concealed in a truck carrying gravel stones in Saki, Oyo state.

Kirawa stated that since the zonal commander of the task force made the Ogun axis inaccessible to smugglers, they had chosen to move towards Oyo axis.

He, however, promised that the zonal commander would make all routes in the South-West hot and inaccessible for the smug-



Ogun State Commissioner of Police, Ahmed Iliyasu (right), with the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Administration), Wale Olokode (left), during the decoration of the Commander of the Federal-Special Anti-Robbery Squad (F-SARS), Uba Adam, with his new rank of Superintendent of Police (SP), at the police headquarters, Abeokuta