

Soldiers kill riot policemen in error -JTF

INDICATIONS emerged on Wednesday that soldiers, drawn from the Joint Task Force, and not Niger Delta militants, killed the four riot policemen in Ogbakiri community in Emuohua Local Government Area of Rivers State on Tuesday.

Findings by our correspondent revealed that the Nigeria Police Force was not happy with the killings, though it was yet to ascertain what the dead men were doing at the location where they were killed.

Initial reports had indicated that armed men posing as soldiers disarmed the policemen and killed them.

But in an interview with our correspondent in Port Harcourt, the Public Relations Officer of the 2nd Brigade of the Nigerian Army and spokesman for the JTF, Major Sagir Musa, said the riot policemen were killed in error.

Describing the killing as unfortunate and unintentional, Musa said that the JTF had set up a panel to probe the circumstances relating to the attack.

Musa explained that the dead men, who were later discovered to be riot policemen, were found at the Ogbakiri Junction, which was under routine patrol by soldiers of the JTF at odd hours and they could not identify themselves.



•L-R: The Marketing Manager, Evans Brothers Nigeria Publishers Limited, Mrs. Bola Oyefeso; the Managing Director, Ruff n Tumble Clothings Nigeria Limited, Mrs. Adenike Ogunlesi; and the Managing Director of Evans, Mr. Gbenro Adegbola, during the "Inspire Campaign" organised by the company to motivate pupils in Lagos ...on Wednesday. Photo: Segun Olugbile

Bank robbery kingpin arrested in Anambra

John Ameh, Awka

LUCK ran out on the suspected leader of a bank robbery gang in Anambra State on Wednesday as he was arrested by men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad in Awka.

The suspect, Osita (second name withheld), said to have hailed from Ebenebe, Awka North Local Government

Fidelis Agbo, confirmed the arrest.

Agbo said the suspect had confessed that he specialised in bank robberies and carried out many operations in Lagos and Anambra states.

Osita was alleged to have taken part in the recent killing

of eight policemen at the Alaba International Market, Lagos, and sponsored three members of his gang abroad "to avoid identification and arrest."

Among those he allegedly sent abroad were Udo (second name withheld), to

China; Eze, to Brazil; and Ugo to Germany.

Agbo said, "The kingpin had concluded arrangements to travel to Brazil before he was arrested.

"We are making efforts to arrest other members of the gang. A joint team of anti-robbery men in Lagos and Anambra is investigating the matter."

More victims of tanker explosion die

Segun Olatunji, Kaduna

THE Kaduna State Police Command on Wednesday, confirmed that about 70 persons were on Monday burnt to death at Katugal Village in Kagarko Local Government Area of Kaduna State while scooping petrol from a tanker that fell by the roadside.

Also four out of about 20 other persons said to be in critical condition in various hospitals in the state, according to the police, are dead.

Our correspondent gathered that the tanker, which was conveying petrol from Suleja, Niger State, to the southern part of the state, lost control and fell at a bend around the community.

The driver, it was learnt, had warned the villagers who immediately swooped on the vehicle to steer clear but they failed to heed his advice until one of the buckets they were using to scoop fuel sparked off the fire.

According to the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Yahaya Saad, the fire incident, which occurred around 8.00pm on Monday, also left an unspecified number of people injured.

Saad, a deputy superintendent of police, told journalists that the fuel gushing from the 33,000 litre capacity tanker attracted the villagers who besieged the scene with containers, including jerry cans and buckets, to scoop the product.