

## Man stabs drinking partner to death

**Kunle Adeyemi and  
Olalekan Adetayo**

**M**EN of the Lagos State Police Command have arrested a 28-year-old man, Maroof Sonibare, for allegedly stabbing a neighbour to death at a beer parlour.

Sonibare, a resident of Ogunjobi Street, Ipaja, a suburb of Lagos, was said to have committed the crime in the early hours of Monday.

The victim was identified as Nurudeen Akinlabi and was, until his death, a resident of Aina Obembe Street in Ipaja.

The suspect allegedly stabbed the deceased on the head and hand with a broken bottle during a scuffle at the beer parlour located in their neighbourhood.

Policemen from Ipaja Police Station who were drafted to the scene and some sympathisers were said to have rushed the deceased to a neighbouring Prestige Hospital where he was later confirmed dead.

Although the suspect escaped from the scene of the incident immediately after the bloody encounter,

**Police  
investigate  
businessman's  
murder**  
**Sunday Aborisade, with  
agency report**

**T**HE police in Bauchi State, on Wednesday, said they were investigating the murder of a businessman, Mr. Michael Ogbob, who was killed by an unknown assailant on July 4.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Mohammed Barau, told the *News Agency of Nigeria* in Bauchi that Ogbob was shot dead in his shop by a lone gunman at about 1.45am on that day.

He said that the deceased had been repeatedly warned to stop closing his shop late because of the movements of some miscreants who often loitered around the area at odd hours.

Barau said that the gunman did not utter a word or ask for money, adding that he shot Ogbob in the presence of his wife, as they were about to close business for the day.

Meanwhile, the Oyo State Police Command said on Wednesday that its men had arrested three suspected ritualists at Oja-Oba area of Ibadan.

Police spokesperson in the state, Miss Bisi Okuwobi, said the suspects were picked up at a shrine they used to dupe people.

The suspects, however, claimed that they were working for one Alhaji Qudus Majiyagbe, the alleged owner of the shrine.

he was later arrested after his elder brother, Ademilola, who was with him at the beer parlour, was arrested.

Sonibare told our correspondent that trouble started when he sighted a friend who was earlier at the same table with him and his brother at the beer parlour speaking with the deceased in a dark spot.

He alleged that the deceased saw his call on the friend to leave the spot as an effrontery and decided to attack him (Sonibare) with a bottle.

"When I saw that blood was gushing out from my head and he was still bent on attacking me with a broken bottle, I

stabbed him on the hand in order for me to escape from his grip," he told our correspondent.

Police spokesman, Mr. Frank Mba, confirmed the arrest, adding that Ademilola, who was also in custody, would serve as a witness.

Meanwhile, the police in the state have arrested a young man suspected to be an armed robber with a toy gun.

The suspect, Victor Emmanuel, was also in possession of two bags containing assorted jewelry and a laptop believed to have been stolen at gun point.

Mba also confirmed the arrest.



•L-R: Chairman, House of Representatives' Committee on Special Duties, Mr. Samson Osagie; Medical Director, National Hospital, Abuja, Dr. Olusegun Ajuwon; and committee member, Mr. George Nwosu, after a meeting with the committee in Abuja ... on Wednesday. Photo: NAN.

## Two shot dead in police, robbers' duel

**Kunle Adeyemi**

**T**WO men suspected to be armed robbers were on Tuesday, killed in Lagos during a gun battle between policemen and the suspects.

The incident happened at about 8.30pm at Obanlearo junction in front of a popular eatery on Demurin Street, Ketu.

Our correspondent learnt that some policemen from Area 'H,' Ogudu, were on a routine stop-and-search on the spot before the incident happened.

The Obanlearo junction, according to the police, has been tagged a 'black spot' where miscreants reign supreme whenever night falls.

It was gathered that the policemen stopped two motorcycles conveying four men as they approached the junction.

The cyclists, it was learnt,

allegedly refused to stop for a check and chose to have a combat with the police.

A gun duel ensued and during the shootout, two of the suspects were killed while the others escaped on the motorcycles.

After the killing, the policemen reportedly recovered one locally-made pistol and 17 pieces of live cartridges from the dead suspects.

The corpses of the suspects were first taken to the Alapere Police Station and later deposited at a public mortuary.

Spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Frank Mba, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on Wednesday.

Mba said the case had been transferred to the state Criminal Investigation Department, Panti, Yaba for further investigation.

## JTF, MEND disagree over arrested militants

**Sola Adebayo, Warri**

**T**HE Military Joint Task Force and the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, on Wednesday, disagreed over the fate of militants arrested by the security agency on Monday.

The MEND said the suspects were repentant militants who had embraced the amnesty proclamation by President Umaru Yar'Adua while the authorities of the JTF said they were arrested while on a mission to blow up the Forcados Terminal operated by Shell in Burutu LGA of Delta State.

The MEND said, "The JTF has arrested two repentant

armed youths who approached them to take advantage of the government's amnesty offer. We are learning that there are about 11 of such cases currently languishing in detention inside the JTF headquarters in Warri.

"Considering its antecedent of being the judge and executioner, we wonder the fate of the repentant youths."

However, the JTF in an online message by its spokesman, Col. Rabe Abubakar, said, "The miscreants were caught while trying to plant explosives on pipelines along Forcados Waterways in Delta State. Equipment recovered from the pipeline attackers included a speedboat, two electrical batteries,

chemicals and dynamite.

"This is a clear indication that they intended to sabotage the pipelines considering the equipment recovered from them and coupled with the fact that there were similar attacks in the area from the militants in recent times which made the JTF to intensify its patrol of the waterways.

"The names of the saboteurs are Omole Sedimigho (44), from Warri-South LGA and Reuben Gbotonye (36), from Warri-South West all in Delta State.

"The arrest of these two militants, who MEND claimed were repentant and wanted to surrender to the JTF, is an indication that they (MEND) are bent on confusing the atmosphere of peace as proclaimed by the government thereby frustrating the efforts of the government in bringing peace and economic revival to the region.

"If these two miscreants were actually repentant militants, what were they doing with the equipment found with them at midnight in the area where major pipelines are located?"

"If MEND said they were surrendering, who were they surrendering to at that odd time and place? Is that location a JTF headquarters or arms collecting centre for the amnesty?"

**NDDC post: Ondo communities vow to attack oil facilities**

**Femi Makinde, Akure**

**T**HE President-General, Ondo State Oil Producing Areas Peoples Congress, Mr. Rawa Felix, has said that oil companies operating in the state will soon be visited with violence.

It alleged that a deliberate attempt was on by the Federal Government to deny Ondo State the opportunity to produce an executive director of the Niger Delta Development Commission.

He said this in a statement made available to our correspondent in Akure on Wednesday.

He stated that apart from the post of a commissioner which each of the nine states was entitled to, Ondo State, having waited for the first four largest oil-producing states to have their turns, should produce one of the two executive directors of the commission.

However, he expressed surprise at what he described as the "politics which the authorities are using to scheme the state out."

According to him, "We promise the oil companies that we shall not be found wanting in speaking, very soon, the language the Nigerian authorities now prefer to the rule of law."

## Uduaghan warns militants against economic sabotage

**Tobi Soniyi, Abuja**

**D**ELTA State Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, has warned youths in the state not to take advantage of the Federal Government's amnesty initiative to cause economic sabotage in the Niger-Delta region.

He said the state would enforce strict law and order to tackle such activities.

Uduaghan, who gave this warning in Warri on Wednesday, said his administration would not tolerate such criminal act.

He said that the amnesty granted militants in the region was for them to drop their arms and turn a new leaf and not to use it as a basis to engage in vandalisation of crude oil pipelines and other activities capable of causing harm to the economic well-being of the country.

Meanwhile, about 1, 500 militants from Bayelsa State have written to President Umaru Yar'Adua, accepting the amnesty extended to them by the Federal Government.

A copy of the letter written by the militants' lawyer, Mr. Emeka Uchegbulam, to the President was obtained by our correspondent in Abuja, on Wednesday.

The militants, who go by the name 'The Young Shall Grow,' claimed they were also known as the south wing of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, Ugbuheri Island, in Bayelsa State.

The letter reads in part, "Your Excellency, our clients have reliably informed us that they are willing and ready to lay down arms and join the efforts of your Excellency at developing the Niger Delta so long as they are assured of their safety, personal liberty and the grant of unconditional amnesty by your good self and allowed to reintegrate back into the larger society."

Uchegbulam said that the militants had authorised him to enter into correspondence with the Presidency on how to work out the modalities for the surrendering of their arms.