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Gunmen kill 12 policemen in Bayelsa

APRIL 7, 2013 BY FIDELIS SORIWEI, MIKE ODIEGWU, JUDE OWUAMANAM, ADELANI ADEPEGBA WITH AGENCY REPORT

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Inspector- General of Police, Mohammed Abubakar

Fear has enveloped the Niger Delta region after unknown gunmen killed at least 12 policemen in Bayelsa State on Friday night, the day the Movement for Emancipation of Niger Delta threatened to resume hostilities in the country.

Our correspondent gathered that the victims were deployed by the state police command to provide security for the funeral of the late mother of an ex-militant leader, Mr. Kile Torughedi, popularly known as *Young Shall Grow*.

It was learnt that Torughedi who was the commander of the South Wing of MEND from 2002 till 2009 when he embraced the amnesty for repentant militants is currently serving as the Senior Special Adviser to Governor Seriake Dickson on Marine Waterways Security.

The policemen were said to be escorting dignitaries to the wake of the deceased when gunmen attacked them.

It was learnt that 15 policemen were hired to lead the convoy of boats heading for Azuzuama in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of the state for the wake when the gunmen suspected to be militants reportedly ambushed them.

They were said to have been thrown off balance when the bandits opened fire on them around 9pm. A senior police officer told our correspondent that 12 of the policemen who were travelling on the same boat were killed while three dived into the water to escape the attack.

The police officer who pleaded anonymity because he was not authorised to speak on the matter insisted that only 12 policemen died in the attack.

"We lost about 12 policemen on Friday night. They were ambushed by gunmen but three of them escaped. It had nothing to do with MEND. It simply coincided with MEND's threats. We learnt that there has been internal rivalry between the ex-militant leader and his boys who accused him of cornering their allowances," he said.

Another security source gave a different version of how the policemen were killed saying that their boat developed a fault at the point where the gunmen attacked them.

"Only two out of 15 policemen were found alive. Others were killed but their remains had yet to be found," he said.

Our correspondent gathered that the shooting that killed the policemen lasted for over 20 minutes forcing panic-stricken guests to suspend the journey.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr. Kingsley Omire described the slain policemen as soft targets. Omire who was in a pensive mood while addressing journalists at the command's headquarters, Yenagoa, at about 9pm on Saturday said the boat conveying the policemen to the venue of the burial developed a fault midway into the journey.

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Describing the incident as unfortunate, he said the attack had nothing to do with the threats issued by MEND.

According to him, intelligence reports showed that disgruntled elements within the fold of the ex-militant leader were the brains behind the dastardly act.

He confirmed that 12 police officers were missing after the incident adding that four persons including the boat driver were rescued.

He named those who were missing as two inspectors, four non-commission officers, and six constables adding that a search-and-rescue operation had been intensified by divers.

Meanwhile, the Defence Headquarters in Abuja has put all the five sectors of the Joint Task Force operating in the nine states of the Niger Delta on the alert.

The Director of Defence Information, Brig. Chris Olukolade, said the DHQ was monitoring developments and had issued directives to security forces to maintain the peace in the area.

He said, "The DHQ is keenly monitoring and directing the activities of forces operating there to forestall any breach to security in that region.

"At the moment, the five sectors of the JTF covering the nine states in the region are on high alert.

"Maritime and air assets of the force have also been mobilised and patrols intensified both on land and water ways. The area is being effectively dominated to checkmate any assailant.

"No form of lawlessness will be allowed to jeopardise the peace in the region. All peace loving citizens in Niger Delta are encouraged to dissociate themselves, their communities and leadership from any gang intending to disturb peace."

Meanwhile, no fewer than 13 people were killed in the early morning of Saturday at Mildo village in Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa State including two private guards at the residence of the deputy governor of the state.

Similarly seven people were said to have been killed when gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen attacked Karkshi village in Langtang South Local Government Area of Plateau State

Though details of the Adamawa attack were sketchy as at press time, the Executive Director of Stefanos Foundation, Mr. Mark Lipdo, in a text message to *SUNDAY PUNCH* said the 13 persons were slaughtered in their homes by persons suspected to be Islamic fundamentalists.

Matagali is the border area between Adamawa and Borno states.

In the Plateau attack, apart from seven killed, several people were also wounded.

It was also gathered that another set of gunmen attacked Zango in Wase LGA and burnt at least 10 houses before they were repelled by the villagers.

Spokesman of the Special Task Force, Captain Salisu Mustapha, confirmed the Plateau killings to *SUNDAY PUNCH* in Jos on Saturday.

According to him, around 2am, unknown gunmen stormed the village and killed seven people while several other sustained gunshot wounds.

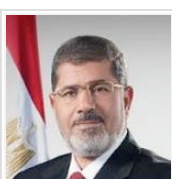
He added that four of the attackers were arrested and were being interrogated. He assured the residents that the incident would be thoroughly investigated and those found culpable would be prosecuted.

The Adamawa Police Public Relations Officer, Mohammed Ibrahim, confirmed that unidentified gunmen raided Midlu Village and attacked the home of the Deputy Governor, Bala Ngalari.

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**James** • 3 months ago

Mr Jonathan, please handover to the Army. It's too much for you because of indiscipline in your party during the last 13 years. It's getting worse by the day through the actions of your government.

22 ^ v Reply Share

**Muiyiwa** → **James** • 3 months ago

The situation in Nigeria is not funny at all, things are getting out of hand, I remember that I told a friend sometimes that the military men that we rejected, we will beg them to come back because of the type of politicians we have, I think it is coming to pass now, every clueless person in Nigeria have a clue that military is the answer now, either we like it or not.

15 ^ v Reply Share

**goodlucky** → **Muiyiwa** • 3 months ago

Were if not for Babangida who bastardised the military by his corruptible and evil regime, the military would have taken over during the days of Yaradua's sickness. GEJ would never have been president, all this nonsense would have been avoided.

1 ^ v Reply Share

**Elbani moses** → **goodlucky** • 3 months ago

Therefore Babangida is really a super intelligent president far above any we are yet to produce because he made it impossible for military to derail from their constitutional role.

^ v Reply Share

**Efe1** → **Muiyiwa** • 3 months ago

Have you not notice there is a rush to join the army now! GEJ has made joining the army fashionable again. The man is just running from pillar to post. Flip flopping from one decision to another, trying to please everybody and anybody because of 2015. Can it get worse? Please somebody tell me, GEJ is in the news everyday now for just the wrong reasons. I guess the PDP sycophants in this forum will say it is the enemies of GEJ that are making him to commit all this blunders. The man thought Nigeria is NDDC or bayelsa state.

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**Peter2000** → Efe1 • 3 months ago

what blunder??? Do you see Jonah running anywhere? nobody is getting pleased. The PDP is making sure your yoruba Islamic bothers are left in their political wilderness come 2015. what else can you promise your mallam brothers??? They are already fighting sambo for his VP office, because they know the preseidency is out of reach. This is all about 2015, and the only result needed is for the yourbas Islamist to remain irrelevant in Nigeria. Jonah is doing just fine. Sometime in the next couple of weeks the sultan will lead all the emirs to Jonah bowing and kissing his ring for giving them amnesty, that we all know will not stop the bombing up north and their continuous economic downward spiral

Jonah is fully in control, what is here to lose sleep over???

^ | v Reply Share ›

**Efe1** → Peter2000 • 3 months ago

Your sound and think like GEJ

3 ^ | v Reply Share ›

**JACEE** → Peter2000 • 3 months ago

Peter , only a mad man insists that he is in full control in an anarchic situation as is the case here in Nigeria where your insisting that Jonathan is control of a nation that is in a state of anarchic chaos across all its sectors .

^ | v Reply Share ›

**Endeley Vanniel Konboye** → Muiyiwa • 3 months ago

you are right

^ | v Reply Share ›

**Dre UK** → Muiyiwa • 3 months ago

lol, I love your comment. I can't stop laughing

^ | v Reply Share ›

**Rico** → James • 3 months ago

Even Jonathan's supporters must agree that under his watch, Nigeria is being torn apart.

11 ^ | v Reply Share ›

**Peter2000** → Rico • 3 months ago

If that statement is true, then I will say mission accomplished.

^ | v Reply Share ›

**deri** → James • 3 months ago

what is the difference between ACN and PDP--is tinubu more disciplined than jonathan

1 ^ | v Reply Share ›

**Bonga fish** → James • 3 months ago

That's a bloody lie, Nigeria should never BOW to Islamic fundamentalism(st). Governments in .Algeria,Agfanistan,Chechnya,Pakistan and India never did. Libya,sudan, morroco,Iraq,Russia,Egypt,United states,Britain,France and the Fillipines never would do. Saudi Arabia,Bangladesh,China,Malaysia,Kazacstan and Turkey will never -never allow this.They'll keep the fight on. So whats the DIFFERENCE HERE?Islam is GOOD, but ISLAMIC FUNDERMENTALISM IS UTTER RUBBISH. FIGHT them, Kill them If you find them. cos they'll end up killing you.

^ | v Reply Share ›






Jimmy → Bonga fish • 3 months ago

You are so confused that you cannot tel the difference between right and wrong. What has "Islamic fundamentalism" got to do with Niger-Delta hoodlums gunning down 13 policemen? Must every issue that affect us as a nation be viewed from the myopic prism of religious bigotry?

7   Reply Share ›



Fatyma → Jimmy • 3 months ago

Please tell him

  Reply Share ›



Efes → James • 3 months ago

.... so that the army can organize an SNC, that's the only solution for now.

  Reply Share ›



tony are → James • 3 months ago

mumu, as if Abacha solved this problem

  Reply Share ›



Efe1 → tony are • 3 months ago

Abacha was better my friend. At least when you look at what we have now.

2   Reply Share ›



Samson → Efe1 • 3 months ago

It is a pity that a Yorubaman can say that Abacha was better than Jonathan after what Abacha did to the Yorubas. This shows the level of frustration and anger that the Yorubas are made to face by their ACN deceivers who continuously feed them with falsehood and ethnic manipulation

1   Reply Share ›



Efe1 → Samson • 3 months ago

Which Yoruba man are you referring to?

  Reply Share ›



Fatyma → Efe1 • 3 months ago

Well even if u are a Yoruba man at least the situation then was far better than what we have on ground now so Samson it is not in all situations that u bring nepotism into sometimes it pays to be frank

1   Reply Share ›



tony are → Efe1 • 3 months ago

Abacha personally stole £3-4bn+. He had dungeon detention centre. He had hit squad for killing opponents. They made bombs for killing opponents including his deputy. Maybe his boys & money is helping Boko, who knows? I give anyone £100 if they find your brain!

  Reply Share ›



Peter2000 → Efe1 • 3 months ago

correct he dealt with yourubas like nobody before. I complete agree with you.

  Reply Share ›



Lanre • 3 months ago

More killings? This definitely calls for more amnesty. Oya over to you Oga Jona. Set up another amnesty committee for the Niger Delta Militants

up another amnesty committee for the Niger Delta militants

8 ^ | v | Reply | Share >



adejacobi → Lanre • 3 months ago

Remember Odi? Obj will not let his security agents down.

1 ^ | v | Reply | Share >



Benjamin Okorie-Agidi → adejacobi • 3 months ago

The Jos crisis started under his watch; what is the status today? He could not even address the nation on the subject all through his 8 years in office. Obj is not a good yardstick for matters of this kind, including corruption, elections, and indeed governance.

3 ^ | v | Reply | Share >



eyobaba → adejacobi • 3 months ago

Ode, so obj is now your yard stick, the man ran Nigeria down , and clowns like you will give credence to a big clown. Please spare us his wahala, gej should just declare amnesty to those involved in the recent killing, period

^ | v | Reply | Share >



Efe1 → eyobaba • 3 months ago

Well when you compare OBJ and GEJ, it will not be fair to compare GEJ to another president. OBJ failed, but GEJ is setting new and probably unbeatable standard of failure. Any president worse than GEJ in the future will mean certain instant death for Nigeria. I pity the next president after GEJ, he will have to hit the ground running faster than Usain Bolt. We will all need to donate shoes just in case.

3 ^ | v | Reply | Share >



Berlin → Efe1 • 3 months ago

I really can't imagine how dissapointed and angry you will be in 2015

1 ^ | v | Reply | Share >



Efe1 → Berlin • 3 months ago

I will only be disappointed if the progressive who will come in in 2015 don't send GEJ and his band of looter into exile.

1 ^ | v | Reply | Share >



Iwuanyanwu B.C → Efe1 • 3 months ago

You be yeye man Efe

^ | v | Reply | Share >



Efe1 → Iwuanyanwu B.C • 3 months ago

If that is all your brain can come up with, it means GEJ is even better than you

1 ^ | v | Reply | Share >



Peter2000 → Efe1 • 3 months ago

instant death for Nigeria to that I say amen.

^ | v | Reply | Share >



abiudun johnson → Peter2000 • 3 months ago

You want instant death to Nigeria because you want oil dominance which will not happen, even If Nigeria splits, the oil will be split too, and If your people refuse, we'll enslave you again.

^ | v | Reply | Share >



Peter2000 → abiudun johnson • 3 months ago



like you are enslaving us now???? I really wished some of you knew what is going on in this land.

2 ^ | v Reply Share ›



abiodun johnson → Peter2000 • 3 months ago

Nothing going on in your land that is not prevalent in other lands, why not shift focus on your elders with boat load of cash yet all they do is steal it overseas, Niger Delta alone receives more funds from the federal government than south west and south east combined, but your elders that you gave blind supports are robbing your future blind.

Be wise for once.

3 ^ | v Reply Share ›



Iwuanyanwu B.C → Lanre • 3 months ago

amnesty without end like obj will I dey laughooooooooo

^ | v Reply Share ›



abiodun johnson • 3 months ago

I won't be surprised If Nigeria breaks apart before 2015.

Uncle Joe is not respected by any section or region of the land he rules, and I'm not sure If he's aware of that.

Any president that embraces corruption can never rule a peaceful land, any president that neglects the core principle and ideology that gave him people's mandate is doomed to fail, any president that turns blind eyes to the primary needs of the masses is a complete failure, If we are not careful, this president will lead Nigeria to another civil war.

If your own kinsmen will attack and kill police officers under your watch, that shows the level of respect they have for your presidency.

Uncle Joe is not fit to rule.

7 ^ | v Reply Share ›



Iwuanyanwu B.C → abiodun johnson • 3 months ago

Abiodun I agree with you totally

^ | v Reply Share ›



Efe1 • 3 months ago

Can we really say with full confidence, that GEJ is in control of this country? I must admit, I have lost all confidence in his leadership. It looks to me he has too.

7 ^ | v Reply Share ›



Efes → Efe1 • 3 months ago

The situation shall be worse with whoever you want to be in control after you kick out Jonathan in 2015. You pretend as if Nigeria started with Jonathan.

1 ^ | v Reply Share ›



Efe1 → Efes • 3 months ago

We are not interested in when the problem started, all we are interested in is solution. Oil was there before GEJ, I guess he should be looking for a new source of income for his presidency, if we are to use you excuse of the problem not starting under GEJ.

2 ^ | v Reply Share ›



Peter2000 → Efe1 • 3 months ago

yes you are, you have not seen blood yet. This country must be restructured whether you like it or not. We can do it peacefully or firefighting style

^ | v Reply Share ›

^ | v | Reply Share >



Efe1 → Peter2000 • 3 months ago

Don't you actually feel over whelmed by GEJ letting you down everyday? He is making your job of defending him harder by the min! Ogunlewe a thief now the chairman of a university board! Toronto is also a chairman! Is it that GEJ deliberately seek out people with questionable record to appoint? We have 170m people in this country, GEJ just can't find capable hands amongst all of the 170m people? This man just keep sinking lower and lower everyday. Like he said, he does not give a damn!

2 ^ | v | Reply Share >



Berlin → Efe1 • 3 months ago

Tinubu, a certificate forger, drug addict and looter of your money is the national leader of your tribal (not regional) party. He deceived you and sold the HOR speakership to Tambuwal for a fee.

1 ^ | v | Reply Share >



Efe1 → Berlin • 3 months ago

GEJ your president, is a corruption promoter. He could not prosecute tinubu, and he pardoned a wanted man, appointed and indicted man as the bot of PDP, and just appoint well known criminals as chairmen of university board. Can one promote corruption better? The US are about to start mapping the human brain, GEJ will make for a good specimen for how a brain of a president should be.

1 ^ | v | Reply Share >



Frank → Berlin • 3 months ago

Berlin Tinubu only smokes indian hemp not drug lol

^ | v | Reply Share >



abiodun johnson → Peter2000 • 3 months ago

Fire fighting against who? You must really be under a spell or an illusion If you think your militants are actually warriors. You have no clue what firefight sounds like or look like. You guys will be toast within days not even weeks.

Your best general, Tom Polo, is comparable to a night gate man in south west.

1 ^ | v | Reply Share >



Efe1 → Peter2000 • 3 months ago

Your point being?

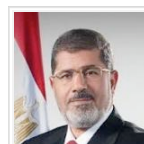
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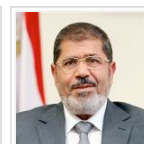
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