

However, these "cosmetic" arrests do not endanger the oil bunkering trafficking that is organised at a very high level.

• **Kidnapping – Crime**

- **27/04 : Delta, Asaba** : Release of UBA ex-manager mother. Ransom amount unspecified.
- **30/04 : Rivers, Onne** : Release of a priest of catholic Church, St Marry Onne Church, after his capture last week.
- **01/05 : Delta, Asaba** : Arrest of 5 kidnappers, 6 armed robbers and 1 cultist.
- **03/05 : Delta, Ethiope East LGA** : 2 alleged robbers killed in a shootout at the army checkpoint of Ovorie
- **04/05 : Rivers, Port Harcourt** : 2 riot policemen killed by hoodlums in town.
- **04/05 : Rivers, Khana LGA** : Police killed 3 alleged thieves in a shootout with 30 hoodlums in Ogoniland, who had attacked and looted several houses previously.
- **11/05 : Delta, Warri** : Arrest of 3 alleged killers of 1 soldier, 4 policemen and their families in an attack on the central market of Warri in December 2011.
- **Imo**
 - **28/04 : Owerri** : Kidnapping of a former member of the House of Representatives in the district of Ohaji/Egbema/oguta, Chief Tony Eze Okera, at this home. 3 millions Nairas asked for his release.
 - **03/05 : Owerri** : Burglary of a pharmacy in Owerri and kidnapping of its owner in the late afternoon. 50 millions Nairas asked for his release.
 - **06/05 : Mbaitoli LGA** : Kidnapping of the head of the Eze Community in Awo Mbieri, by members of his church.
 - **07/05 : Mbaitoli LGA** : Kidnapping of a woman in Umunoha community while driving.
 - **07/05 : Mbaitoli LGA** : Murder of a head of Umueze Abazu Community in Ogwa by 2 armed men who ransacked his home.

Comments:

There has been a particularly sharp increase in the number of kidnappings in Imo State, especially on Mbaitoli, where it is possible that the recent attacks are the handiwork of a single gang. The end of the operation "Famou Tangbei" of the JTF that concentrated on fighting against kidnapping undoubtedly encourages a resumption of criminal activities mainly in the Northern states of the Delta. Most of the crime is committed in broad daylight, generally by well-armed groups who do not hesitate to resort to violence and who are hardly disturbed by the presence of security forces.