From Femi Folaranmi, Yenagoa

TROOPS attached the Operation Delta Safe (ODS) have gunned down suspected pirates at Polako community in Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Intelligence officers were said to have briefed the leadership of the ODS of movement of arms and ammunition by suspected pirates in Yenagoa and Kolokuma/Opokuma local

government areas.

According to investigations, the two were shot dead at the Polako water front on the alleged suspicion of being in possession of sack of rifles purportedly meant for some unrepentant pirates in Egbedi community of Kolokuma/ Opokuma.

Sources in the community said the boat driver, popularly known as Mike was unaware of the sack of guns kept in his boat by his customers but was killed

by soldiers.

Community sources said Mike on realising that the soldiers were targeting their boat jumped into the river as the boat arrived at

the jetty.

"The indigenes of the community were surprised by the arrival of some patrol team of soldiers at Polako waterfront. When they arrived, they took positions. Upon sighting the boat with some passengers, they opened fire. We suspected that the soldiers acted on `

tip off. But we were worried that the boat driver was shot instead of being arrested. Some arrests were also made in the process and they recovered the sack of rifles."

Coordinator of the Joint Media Campaign Centre (JMCC) of the ODS, Lt. Col. Olaolu Daudu could not be reached for confirmation but sources at the headquarters of the ODS said an appropriate statement would be issued on the operation later.

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