

# 1 die, 4 houses razed as militants invade Bayelsa community

From **Femi Folaranmi**,  
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**ONE** person was feared dead and four houses razed as suspected militants, involved in pipeline vandalism and crude oil theft, yesterday, invaded Korokorosei community in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

The attack, it was gathered, was connected to the recent arrest of suspected crude oil thieves by troops

of Joint Task Force, Operation Delta Safe (ODS).

According to investigations, the militants in the area were unhappy with the arrest which intelligence officers linked to the December 2016 attack on the Ogbienbiri-Tebidaba trunk line operated by the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC).

A witness said the suspected militants, armed with sophisticated weapon attacked the Korokorosei community and killed one

Erelayefa, who attempted to engage them in a shootout while two pupils of Community Primary School, Korokorosei were cut in the cross fire and were critically injured.

Investigations further revealed that the home of the coordinator of the Oil and Gas Task Force and three others were set ablaze over their involvement in the arrest of their colleagues.

Sources in the com-

munity said troops have been on the trail of the suspected militants for a while and yesterday's attack was the climax of their running battle with security agents and an attempt to instil fear in communities around them.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), in the state Police Command, Asinim Butswat, said details of the clash were being awaited.