

# Killing of Cops, Not Deliberate — Taskforce

The Nigerian Army yesterday admitted that its men were the ones that fired and killed the four policemen at Ogbakiri, Emuoha Local Government area of Rivers State on Tuesday morning.

They however said that the killing was not deliberate but was an error, which occurred, in controversial circumstances, which further investigations may yet reveal the full details of what actually led to the error.

Admitting the facts of the killing of the policemen, the Army Public Relations Officer in Rivers State, who also speaks for the Joint Task Force, Major Musa Segir said there was no way any man in the army would deliberately kill a policeman or anybody at all.

"No Nigerian army or soldier will deliberately kill any policeman. Everybody in the state now knows that the JTF is in operation at Ogbakiri. Those deployed were on regular patrol. They met four plain clothes human beings; the vehicle they were using was not marked.

## RIVERS

*From Ahamefula Ogbu*

*in Port Harcourt*

On approaching them, they coked their rifles, some even fired. Our men fired back and later took their rifles to the Police Headquarters", Major Segir confirmed.

It was at the Police Headquarters that it was confirmed that the men involved were policemen duly deployed to the State. However, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Ireju Barasua said their men were shot at about 11am when they went to confront armed robbers.

According to her, by the time their men were at the robbery scene, the robbers had left, prompting them to embark on a patrol of the East-West road where at a point their vehicle developed a fault and while trying to fix it, were fired at and killed by men in army uniform.

Another source involved in the operation said that the incident happened at about 3am contrary to the claim by the police that it was about 11am, adding that there was no armed robbery in the area at the time of the incident.

## Fire Victims Get Mass Burial

The about 90 people who were burnt to death in Kagarko Local Government Area of Kaduna State were buried in a mass grave yesterday. This is coming on the heels of a warning by health officials in the area of possible outbreak of an epidemic as obnoxious odour continue to fill the air at the scene of the accident.

The victims were burnt to death in a fire incident caused by a 33,000 litre petrol tanker that lost control and tipped over at a bend, about 45 kilometres from Jere.

There were fears that even about 20 others who sustained serious injuries and were receiv-

House Correspondents alongside the Minister of Information and Communication, Frank Nweke (Jnr), regretted that out of the current budget of N189 billion for the Ministry of Education, about 90 per cent of it will go to personnel cost with little going for infrastructure.

## KADUNA

*From George Oji*

*in Kaduna*

ing treatments in various hospitals may have given up the ghost as at yesterday as their relations were seen at the Kagarko Hospital wailing and throwing themselves on the ground.

When THISDAY visited Katugal village in Kagarko Local Government yesterday, the entire community was thrown into deep mourning following the disaster, which claimed the lives of about 90 people.