

News

GROUP NEWS EDITOR: NOSIKE OGBUENYI

Expatriate Dies in Kidnappers' Custody

An unidentified expatriate said to be an oil worker kidnapped by militants in Bayelsa State has died in Yenagoa following a protracted illness while in the custody of his abductors in the jungle. Although the name and nationality of the man could not be ascertained as at

From Segun James

in Yenagoa

press time, the corpse of the man has since been deposited at the mortuary of the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa.

THISDAY gathered that fol-

lowing the illness of the man, the militants who kidnapped him decided to release him. It was in the process of bringing him to Yenagoa for release that the man died on the way.

Confirming the incident, the State Police Public Relations Officer, Iniobong Ibokette said one expatriate reportedly died on Sunday, but added that he was not kidnapped in Bayelsa.

He said that it was one of the incidents that happened in a neighbouring state. He however disclosed that his remains has been deposited at the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa.

The PPPO stated that the Police Authority is still trying to get to the root of the matter.

Even though nobody has claimed responsibility for their abduction of the man, it would be recalled that a militant group three weeks ago claimed they had kidnapped two expatriates, a claim that could not be confirmed by security operatives.

The militant group, apparently in a bid to extort ransom from the employers of the expatriates and the government raised alarm over the deteriorating health of the two expatriates. As at press time, the fate of the second expatriate remained unknown.

The two were allegedly kidnapped at Alabeni community,

Ekeremor Local Government Area of Bayelsa state but nobody has bothered to look for them nor demands made to their supposed employers heeded.

The militants group, 'The Authentic Emancipation of the Movement for Peace and Development in the Niger Delta' (EMOPEND) which claimed responsibility for the kidnap through a statement in Yenagoa signed by its spokesman, Commander Jerry Sea-Lion, had vowed not to release the hostages until their demands were met by the Federal and state government, as well as the oil firms operating in the area.

The threat by the group sounded strange to security operatives in Yenagoa as they claimed that they were unaware of any such kidnap that week.

The group said the hostages, a Bulgarian and a Scot were kidnapped aboard a sea going vessel called 'Monipo' which was reportedly hired by the company before it was intercepted by the armed youths who came in four speed boats.

The group said the operation in which the men were abducted was an easy one as they arrived and shot sporadically into the air, before whisking the two expatriates off to an unknown destination.

The group maintained that the hostages whose health were deteriorating, due to the non availability of medical attention and health facilities would not be released until their demands were met, with a clear agenda to develop the much exploited people of Alabeni saying "the hostages are still cooling their heels with us."

...As Taskforce Raids Diobu

Joint Task Force, comprising police and military men in the early hours of yesterday, stormed Diobu in search of cultists.

The operation, was carried out at about 3a.m. when the operatives stormed Afikpo Street, in search of the cultists and their arms.

According to information, some of the people troubling the state usually take-off from a place in Afikpo Street. Though sources in the police confirmed the operation, it refused to give details, insisting that it was not for public consumption.

Meanwhile, the Action Congress (AC) gubernatorial candidate in the April general elections, Prince Tonye Princewill, who is at the Election Petition Tribunal in Port Harcourt, has attributed the trouble that has

From Ahamefula Ogbu

in Port Harcourt

bedeviled the state to a stolen mandate by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

In a statement sent on line by his Media Consultant, Chief Eze Chukwumemeka Eze, he said since Governor Celestine Omehia has displayed "lack of ability to grapple with demands of the office," he should resign and let him who won the election take over.

In another development, Managing Director, Honeywell Group of Companies, Lagos, Mr Siji Ijogun, has appealed to youth in the Niger Delta to drop their arms to enable those who have the intention of citing industries in the region to do so and contribute to the needed development they crave for.

CAC Sets Up Board to Draft Company Law

Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) at the weekend, inaugurated a Board that will draft the Nigerian Law Report and judgments on companies, to have a data base for its use.

The board is saddled with the responsibility of addressing cases

From Funmi Peter-Omale in Abuja

should come up with a publication to guide the commission in the implementation of provisions of the Company and Allied

Matters Act (CAMA).

The Registrar-General, who noted that the outcome of the board, which consist largely of broad based and seasoned administrators; will also serve as a reference point for legal practitioners and the academia across the country.