



News

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Militants Kill 2 Policemen, 1 Civilian

Militants, in the early hours of yesterday, attacked Wilbros yard in Bonny Local Government Area of Rivers State and killed two policemen and a civilian guarding the facility.

Shots fired by the hoodlums also wounded several others, but before they could gain entry into the yard, they were forced to retreat by the Joint Task Force members in the vicinity.

Confirming the story, the JTF Spokesman, Major Musa Sagir, said the sporadic shooting attracted his men, who were on guard duty nearby and returned fire, which forced the mili-

*From Ahamefula Ogbu
in Port Harcourt*

tants to flee, leaving their bus behind.

Also confirming the

story, Commissioner of Police in the State, Mr Felix Ogbaudu, said the attackers appeared from one of the creeks in Bonny and opened fire on the police-

men and the private security guard, killing the three of them.

Initial reports had it that NLNG had been attacked, but JTF had clarified that

the attack was on Wilbros. There had been fears that following the attack on some barges by the navy last weekend, militants were planning a

reprisal attack on naval establishments. JTF has handed the bus over to the police, while the slain policemen had been deposited in the morgue.

Nigeria, Largest US Trade Partner in Sub-sahara Africa

Nigeria is now the largest United States (US) trading partner in the Sub-sahara African region, with bilateral trade (both import and export) totaling \$30 billion dollars as at 2006.

In what is also an indication of the country's slow but growing effort to diversify its revenue base, non-oil exports to the US under the African

Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) almost doubled totaling \$1.375 billion in the period under review.

Under AGOA, US imports from Nigeria have grown to include leather products, cocoa products, wood products, spices, prepared fruits and vegetables, and footwear. In an interview with THISDAY in Washington, D.C., the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative, Florizelle

*From Constance Ikoku
in Washington, D.C.*

Liser said the US government wants Nigeria to take its rightful place in the international trading community seeing it has huge potentials.

US imports from Nigeria under AGOA in 2006 totaled \$25.8 billion, up by 15 per cent compared to 2005, mostly due to increases in oil

imports, she stated.

In continuation of this bilateral relationship, Liser will lead a delegation to Nigeria between December 11-12 for a council meeting of the U.S.-Nigeria Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA).

She is expected to co-chair the meeting with Nigerian Minister of Commerce Charles Ugwu. Under TIFA, the US and Nigeria can dis-

cuss trade, intellectual property rights, and the implementation of AGOA.

As a result of this dialogue, expanded trade and investment opportunities which will benefit both the U.S. and Nigeria, is expected, said Liser. It would be recalled that the American Business Council (ABC) Nigerian Chapter, was recently launched by the US Chamber of Commerce.