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THIS DAY

Nigeria: Helicopter Crash - Navy Unveils Victims' Identities

Paul Obi

29 January 2010

Abuja — The Nigerian Navy yesterday in Abuja unveiled the identities of the four naval officers involved in the Nigerian Navy Agusta reconnaissance helicopter that crashed on January 26 at Obodo Isiokpo in Ikwere Local Government area of Rivers State.

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Addressing journalists on the incident, Naval spokesperson, Commodore David Nabaida, said the names and identities of four dead naval officers were the Pilot of the Helicopter, Lt Commodore Ahmed Tijani Yusuf with official number>NNL/2071; Co-Pilot, Lt Commodore Ahmadu Yahaya; Lt Commodore Mailafia Ibrahim, who is the Base Intelligence Officer, Delta and Seaman Illiya Uyuhili, the aircraft's technician.

Nabaida also disclosed that a panel of experts made up of the producers of the helicopter have been constituted to uncover the causes of the crash, stressing that, "in keeping with industrial best practices as obtained in aircraft accident, a high-power panel of investigation, comprising experts drawn from the aviation industry, the Air Force, including the officials from Agusta Reconnaissance where the helicopter was manufactured has been set up. They are going to carry out a detailed, thorough investigation to establish the actual cause of the crash.

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They have commenced work, and we hope they are going to get everything that will give us the results, so that such crisis will not occur again".

He said the aircraft was on a routine patrol, to investigate a case of illegal bunkering around Akasa and had left from its Warri base and after carrying out its surveillance, was to go to Port Harcourt Airport to refuel before returning to its base but crashed a few kilometers to the airport.

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Asked whether there was any connection of the crash with the remnant of militants still operating in the creeks, Nabaida said: "Absolutely not; as I told you, we were at the site of the aircraft accident, the President's amnesty programme has been working, beside, there is nothing that shows that the crash is

connected with anything militancy".

While the remains of the three officers have already been buried in Navy Cemetery in Port Harcourt, the body of Seaman Illiya Uyuhili is expected in Jos, the Plateau State capital and his remains are to will be committed to mother earth on Saturday. The family of the seaman has requested that his body be taken home for cultural reasons, prompting the naval authorities to skip his burial alongside the other officers who died in the crash in Port Harcourt.

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Charlotte



Profession: enseignante
Age: 27

Situation de famille: **Single**

...et bien d'autres célibataires séduisantes à rencontrer

Marie



Profession: conseiller fiscal
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