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THIS DAY

## Nigeria: Ex-Militant Leader Killed in Bayelsa

Segun James

23 November 2010

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Yenagoa — The resurgence in militant activities in Niger Delta took a new dimension following the killing yesterday of ex-militant leader, Olali Abogha, popularly known as Commander Areama in Akassa area of Brass local government area of Bayelsa state. Abogha was found in the pool of his own blood following several machete cuts inside his room.

The nature of his death surprised a lot people in the area as he is known to be surrounded by a lot of his boys all the time.

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Abogha's death was confirmed by the State Commissioner of Police, CP Aliyu Musa, who told newsmen that the circumstances surrounding his death were being investigated.

As at the time of this report, the full details of his death was still unknown, even as his corpse has been deposited at the General Hospital morgue for autopsy. Meanwhile, Prelate of the Methodist Church, Nigeria, His Eminence Sunday Makinde, has called for a holistic approach to solving the militancy problem in the Niger Delta.

Makinde also called for a pragmatic approach in the implementation of the Amnesty Programme as put forward by the Federal Government, submitting that the present military action in the region will fail.

The Prelate stressed on the need for the expansion of the Amnesty Programme to include those that were previously left out, saying that this was the only way to curb the resurgence of militancy in the region. The Prelate made this known in an address to newsmen at the end of his pastoral mission to Rivers and Bayelsa state.

He said the church is happy with the successes recorded so far in the implementation of the Amnesty, saying "I am personally happy about the amnesty in view of the years of neglect in the region and the damages caused by militancy.

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"If you have seen the past and witness the putting on of black clothes into decent homes in the region, you will know the difference. Thank God they are giving them amnesty and i want them to be fully rehabilitated. The full rehabilitation should be done especially to guide against the 2011 hiring of

political thugs.

"Let the government take warning, we don't want the politicians to recruit the boys instead they should take the infrastructural

development, environmental development, social development and educational development serious."

On the recent military action Makinde said "two wrongs do not make a right. Military invasion and intervention cannot solve the problem. It is better to discuss than engage in battle. They have used military invasion before, it failed. What will work is discussion on re-modified amnesty and development."

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