

Amnesty International accuses Nigerian → police of illegal killing

By Tunde Sesan, with
Agency reports

AMNESTY International has accused the Nigerian police of summarily killing 12 suspected armed robbers captured in a police raid in Abia state. The 12 had been paraded before the press the previous day, after the raid in the southern town of Umuahia. Four others were shot dead in the raid. Amnesty has called for a

public inquiry into what happened.

In an unrelated incident, Niger Delta militants say 10 of their men were killed in a crackdown on kidnappers. Police say they are investigating the deaths of the 12 in Umuahia and could not comment.

The men were arrested earlier in August and paraded before journalists. The police said those who

had sustained injuries during the raid would be treated, and others were to be taken for interrogation.

The next day the bodies of all 12 were found dumped outside the government hospital morgue. Local press said there was little local sympathy for the suspects given the huge number of armed robberies which have plagued the state.

Amnesty International says the accountability of the security services is a key issue, particularly with elections approaching and with the government's recent pledge to meet force with force when dealing with armed groups in the Niger Delta. On Monday, a militant group, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, said 10 of its fighters were killed in a firefight when their boats were ambushed by government forces on Sunday night. Military sources confirmed the clash but gave no further details. The group said it was trying to help hand over a Nigerian Shell oil worker, taken by gunmen almost two weeks ago, when they suddenly came under fire from ten patrol boats.

Police foils fresh terror plot

searching for suspects linked with the July 11 attacks, A.N. Roy, Mumbai's police chief, told a news conference. "We intercepted a car last night and arrested a person who led us to the hideout of his accomplice," Roy said. "There, the other man did not surrender and fired 18 rounds from an AK-47 rifle. We returned fire in which he was killed."

A senior officer had earlier said Tuesday's killing and arrest was a breakthrough in last month's train bombings as the two men were suspected to be linked to the

attacks. Asked if the two were suspects in the Mumbai bombings, Roy said, "They could be involved. But we have to investigate more. Obviously, they came with some ulterior motives." The shootout took place at around 4:30 a.m.

Police identified the arrested man as Mohammed Riaz Nabiuddin and the dead as Mohammed Ali.

"The arrested terrorist told us he and his accomplice were from Pakistan," Roy said. Under Indian law, confessions made in police custody are not ordinarily admissible in court.