

Soldiers kill one as gunmen abduct 4 Chinese

By Samuel Oyadongha

YENAGOA—THE peace of the sleepy riverine settlement of Sagbama in the Sagbama local government area of Bayelsa was yesterday tested when armed gunmen in dawn raid invaded the Chinese National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and abducted four Chinese nationals while five others could not be accounted for.

Also, one of the armed gunmen was killed by soldiers attached to the oil prospecting firm in a gunfight.

The attack on the Chinese oil outfit it was learnt was launched by suspected militants who stormed the company premises located some distance away from the bank of the Forcados River in two speed boats at about 6am shooting sporadically thereby throwing the entire community

into confusion. Although it could not be immediately ascertained which group was responsible for the attack, but security sources told *Vanguard* that the attackers might have been tipped off by an insider since the company was said to have earlier withdrawn about N30m from an unnamed bank for workers salary.

The money it was learnt was kept in the company vault with a view to commencing payment the next day Thursday as it was already late. The invaders who shot their way into the company premises were said to have divided themselves in two formation with one group marching straight to the expatriates' quarters while the other group made for the vault where money meant for the payment of staff salary was kept.

It was learnt that apart from the expatriates that were abducted the invaders also succeeded in stealing large sum of money from the vault before disappearing into the maze of creek with their captives and loot.

Nemesis however caught up with one of the armed gunmen as he was reportedly gunned down while trying to carry the biggest sack of money the by soldiers who had earlier beat a retreat on realizing fire power of the intruders.

Ogoni decries politics of dichotomy in Rivers

PORT HARCOURT—THE Ogoni Consultative Forum, a body of Ogoni leaders, youths and women, has decried the politics of dichotomy introduced to the process of electing the next governor of Rivers State.

A spokesman of the Forum and Chairman of Ogoni Council of Traditional Rulers and Chiefs, Chief Godwin Giniwa, disclosed the Forum's position at a press conference yesterday in Port Harcourt.

He lamented that the advocates of the strategy who were championing the politics of riverine and upland dichotomy in the state were just being

selfish.

Giniwa noted that a recent publication by the Rivers Ijaw Consultative Assembly, rejecting the choice of Mr Rotimi Amaechi as the PDP governorship candidate, was a misguided effort.

He argued that since the creation of Rivers State in 1967, the Ijaws had produced the state's governors, including the military governors of other states. "Rivers State is politically divided into three senatorial districts and only one zone, the Rivers South-East Senatorial district, has never ever produced a governor, whether military or civilian," he said.