



Diego Fernando Murillo, aka "Don Berna" (C) former leader of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) is escorted by Policemen before appearing in court at the Palace of Justice in Medellin, Department of Antioquia, Colombia. Murillo's appearance in court takes place within the AUC's demobilization and reintegration process.

Woman beheaded, dumped in farmland

PORT HARCOURT— TENSION has continued to mount in Bodo and Gbe communities in Gokana local government area following the reported discovery of the headless corpse of a sixty year old woman in a farmland at the border of the two communities. Community Sources who spoke to the *Vanguard* said the deceased was a mother of six. Adding that she was likely murdered by ritualists. "I am also from Bodo, but I have to be as objective as possible. What most people suspect is that she is most likely to have been killed by cultists in the community for ritual purposes. They dumped her body there just to cause trouble."

"You know it is possible for her to have been killed in another place, probably with the town, and they just took her body there."

That place is like a border-portion of land between Bodo and Gbe. So I think they just want to use that to cause more trouble, you remember something similar happened last year, which caused serious trouble among communities in that area", one of the sources explained to newsmen.

Meanwhile, the Police in Rivers state has gun down four armed robbery suspects in D line area of Port Harcourt. According to the Police PRO, Mrs. Barpsua Ireju, the robbers engaged them in a shoot out during one of their operations.

Police reportedly recovered AK 47 rifle with 18 rounds of ammunition, as SMG with 14 rounds of ammunition, four empty shells of 9mm, and two GSM handsets from them.

Fire kills 600 persons in 10 years — FIRE SERVICE

ABUJA— MORE than 600 persons lost their lives in no fewer than 4,000 fires recorded by the Federal Fire Service (FFS) in the last 10 years.

The acting Comptroller-General of the FFS, Mr Olu Okebiurun) said yesterday in Abuja that the figures did not include those compiled by the state fire services.

Okebiurun explained that the state fire services were independent of the federal agency.

He said that the death toll excluded the more than 1,000 lives lost in the petroleum products pipeline fire that ravaged Jesse, Delta State, in October 1998.

The figure also excluded the December 2006 pipeline fire at

Abule-Egba, Lagos, in which more than 200 persons died.

The acting comptroller-general further said that "hundreds of thousands" of lives were saved during the 10-year period.

He estimated the value of property either lost or saved during the period at trillions of naira.

"Everyday, Nigeria loses millions of naira to fire because there is no day we don't have an outbreak."

"In Lagos, we have an average of four to eight fire outbreaks everyday, including those in markets and other buildings," he said.

Okebiurun, however, said that the incidence in the FCT was about one fire in two days, and an average of 15 fires a month.

He listed the major fires during the period to include the Jesse inferno, the Abule-Egba incident as well as those at the NNPC Towers, Victoria Island, and the Federal Secretariat, both in Lagos.

The acting comptroller-general said that most of the fires were caused by carelessness and electrical fault.

3 siblings crushed by drivers of Tokunbo in Ogun

THREE SIBLINGS were on Sunday evening crushed at Ilepa in the Ifo Local Government Area of Ogun State by drivers of smuggled second hand vehicles known as Tokunbo cars.

Eyewitnesses account said that the siblings, whose ages ranged from 7 to 10 years, were killed by the Tokunbo smugglers who were said to have been driving at top speed.

Vanguard gathered that the six vehicles were being

smuggled into the country from the Benin Republic through Ijoun border town in Ogun State.

The eyewitnesses stated the children, who were coming from a church service, were hit by one the Tokunbo vehicles, a Toyota Carina said to have been the lead vehicle of the smugglers.

Our correspondent gathered that the children were walking on the roadside at 5pm on Sunday, when they were hit by the Toyota Carina.