

Pregnant woman killed as militants attack Mobil facility

IBENO (AKWA IBOM)—Militants yesterday attacked the Qua Iboe Terminal Jetty of Mobil Producing Nigeria at Ibeno in Akwa Ibom, leaving a pregnant woman dead.

Fishermen, who witnessed the attack, said that the militants numbering about 50 came in seven speed boats.

They said the militants attacked the security post at the jetty and engaged the military security men in a gun battle.

The eyewitnesses said the militants overpowered the security men and disposed them of a patrol boat and two machine guns.

They used explosives to blow up the boat but could not gain access into the oil production facilities at the terminal.

Mr Michael Zuokuma, the Commissioner of Police in Akwa Ibom, who came to assess the situation, said the attack was aimed at oil facilities located near the jetty.

He said the attack was unsuccessful as the militants did not gain access into their target though the security men lost some arms and a patrol

boat to them.

"I commend the gallantry of the security team who were able to withstand the militants and put them to flight."

Zuokuma said more men had been drafted to reinforce security at the oil facility.

The police chief expressed regret at the death of one Mrs Effiong Willie who was hit by a stray bullet during the attack.

The gates to the Mobil facilities have been shut and no human traffic is allowed in or out.

Efforts to get the reaction of Mobil Producing failed as the Public Affairs Manager, Mrs Rita Umoren, refused to answer calls on her mobile telephone.

The Ibeno community remained indoors after the attack with shops and markets closed.

As news of the attack spread, banks and offices in nearby Eket also closed for the day.

It will be recalled that militants in August 2006 attacked Eket, abducting five expatriate employees and killing two private security guards in the process.