

# Gunmen invade Rivers police station, kill 5 cops

## ●Free detainees

By Jimitota Onoyume

**PORT HARCOURT** — GUNMEN, yesterday, invaded the Bonny Police station, killing an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), one Inspector, two Sergeants and one Constable.

The bandits made away with five rifles and two pistols from the station, according to the spokeswoman for the Police in the state, Mrs. Baresua Ireju. But she could not say if they successfully released any of the inmates.

"Gunmen killed one ASP, one Inspector, two Sergeants and one Constable. They also made away with five rifles and two pistols from the police station. At this time, it is unclear if prison inmates were freed," she said, adding that investigation was on to track down those behind the

act.

Spokesman for the Joint

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### MR & MRS

I LOVE YOU DEAR.  
I PROMISE TO TAKE  
YOU TO THE MOON!



IRONICALLY, MOST  
WOMEN BELIEVE THAT  
JIVE. ONE DAY EVERY-  
BODY WILL LIVE ON  
THE MOON, THEN I'D  
LIKE TO SEE WHAT  
ELSE MEN WILL DECEIVE  
WOMEN WITH!

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Task Force and Army PRO in the state, Lieutenant Col Sagir Musa, feared that the attack might not be unconnected with efforts by militants to procure arms.

Community sources told *Vanguard* that the hoodlums freed all the inmates in the cell. According to them, they detonated dynamites during the operation. They said they came through the waterways, and disappeared through the same route. At press time, no group had claimed responsibility for the attack.

"One of their men was arrested about two months ago by the Police in the area. They said he was part of those that invaded the palace of the monarch in the area. So, they came to secure his release. They freed all inmates. And then went with their man," sources said.

## **MEND disowns attack**

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) dissociated itself from the act. In an online statement to *Vanguard*, it blamed the attack on youths from Bonny just as it hailed their action.

The statement reads: "The group that carried out the Bonny Island attack is not the Movement

for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). We have identified them as youths from the community who are impatient with the government's handling of the Henry Okah case and have taken it upon themselves to participate in the struggle by acquiring arms for self defence. MEND commends the community youths for their actions."

## **Idri's wife's kidnapper reduce ransom to N500m**

In a related development, kidnappers of Margaret, wife of oil magnate, Chief Humphrey Idisi, have reduced their demand from N1 billion to N500 million for her release, adding that the ransom be paid within the next two days.

A worried Idisi urged governors in the region, particularly Rivers and Delta States, to step up action to rescue his wife from the claws of her kidnappers. He said his wife, according to the kidnappers, had refused the militants meal since last Sunday when she was kidnapped from their Rumukrushu residence in the state capital.

Continuing, he said she was hypertensive and was being denied access to medication. "My appeal to them is that they should please hasten up whatever they are doing. We were told

that this woman has refused to eat since Sunday that they took her hostage. She's also hypertensive, her drugs are at home, and she's not taken them. Yesterday, she said 'my head is getting heavy, my head is getting heavy'. Now that she is not eating and she's not taking her drugs, I am getting very concerned that whatever is being done should be done quickly so that this woman can regain her freedom," he said.

He said there was no way he could meet the demand of the kidnappers. "They claimed that my wife begged them to come down to N500 million, which I doubt, because my wife knew that there was no N500 million in the house or anywhere to beg them to bring the money down to N500 million. They now dropped it to N500 million, giving me two days, if I don't provide the N500 million they will kill my wife and then wherever I like, if I like I should run to the villa, they will come after me, they will kill me and kill all my children.

"All they told me was that I have failed to pay my workers' salary for the month of March and I said we only owe March, this is April and it is because Shell, MPDC and Agip have not paid.

"This last week, I think two days ago, that March salary was paid," he said.