

Wanted militant leader dies in Bayelsa

By Emma Amaize

WARRI—SUSPECTED militant leader, Awala Ezekiel who was declared wanted by the security agencies in Delta State in the aftermath of the April 15 attack on men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) on the Niger Delta by a militant group, the Deadly Underdogs is dead.

Sources told *Vanguard*, yesterday, that Awala was one of the militants wounded by the JTF soldiers during the shootout and that he was rushed to the camp of the Movement for Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) in Bayelsa state for treatment.

"He lost a lot of blood even before he was rushed to Bayelsa and he later gave up at the MEND camp", our informant added.

Commander of the JTF, Brigadier-General Nanven Rimtip had told *Vanguard* that four of the militants were injured by his men during the Olero Creek battle while two soldiers sustained minor injuries.

He said that due to the difficult terrain, the militants were able to rescue their injured colleagues and take them away.

Believing that the militant leader was hiding at Opuma village, the JTF invaded the community, some days after the shootout at Olero Oil Field, belonging to the Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) in search of him, his colleagues and the weapons, which

they seized from some soldiers.

However, the Deadly Underdogs in a text message sent to *Vanguard* shortly after the invasion of Opuma by the JTF

said that Awala was not part of their team and that its fighters were not even indigenes of the area that Task Force was ransacking.

....As gunmen cart away WAEC answer sheets

By Samuel Oyadongha

YENAGOA—THE biology practical answer sheets of nine secondary schools in the ongoing WAEC senior secondary school examination kept at the Amassoma police station in the Southern Ijaw local government area of Bayelsa State have been carted away by some unknown gunmen.

Vanguard gathered that incident which occurred in the wee hours of last weekend is now causing ripples among stakeholders in the educational sector as the fate of the affected students especially those aspiring to further their education in a related discipline is now hanging in the balance.

The gunmen were said to have stormed the Amassoma police station in search of arms and ammunition when they stumbled on the sack containing the

biology practical answer sheets of the students from nine schools around the Otuan axis of the Southern Ijaw local government area kept there for security reason. Sources told *Vanguard* that the gunmen on arrival at the community waterfront headed straight to the police station and overpowered the security men on duty without any resistance.

It was gathered that in the course of their ransacking the police station they tumbled on the examination materials deposited at the station for safe keeping as it was already late pending when it would be transferred to the zonal head office of the examination body.

The invaders, sources told *Vanguard* that on seeing the sacks containing the answer sheets thought it was money and bolted away with their loot to their waiting speedboat before disappearing into the creek.