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Six militants feared dead in Rivers

Written by Jimitota Onoyume
Tuesday, 11 November 2008

SIX militants were feared dead when they made an attempt to attack oil facilities in Soku area yesterday morning. Spokesman of the army and Joint Task Force in the state Lieutenant Col Sagir Musa told Vanguard that the gun men came in about six speed boats.

They were overwhelmed during an exchange of fire between men of the JTF on ground and the militants. Besides that six of the militants lost their lives he said the JTF recovered one GMPG riffle, one Fm riffle and three AK47.

He continued that there was no casualty on the part of the security body. "Militants in six speed boats attacked our location at Soku gas plant. Their intention was apparently to disrupt production and possibly make a surprise attack on our men to steal some of our arms.

None of our men sustained any form of injury. Six of them were feared dead. We successfully repelled the attack. One GPMG, one Fm riffle, three AK47 riffles were recovered after the encounter"

Meanwhile, on the claim by militants under the aegis of Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) that they had released two hostages, Sagir said the army was watching the drama being played out by the militants. According to him, the resolve of security bodies in the state was that no ransom would henceforth be paid to secure release of hostages.

"My response is that we are monitoring the drama. Kidnappers are no longer paid ransom. No we no longer pay.

In an online statement to the Vanguard, MEND claimed to have released two hostages.

"The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) confirm that one Ukrainian and three Nigerian hostages have been released to the Niger Delta Peace and Conflict Committee today, November 9, 2008 at 22.30 Hrs."

"As stated earlier, the two Britons will be held parallel to the period Henry Okah is detained."

When Vanguard sought to know where they were released. Another

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online statement from Jomo Gbomo said it was in Rivers state. But for security reasons would not disclose the actual spot.

They were released in a rendezvous somewhere in Rivers state. Due to security concerns, the actual location can not be disclosed.

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