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## JTF confirms death of MEND commander

Written by Jimitota Onoyume  
Thursday, 15 January 2009

JOINT Task Force in Rivers state has confirmed the death of an alleged militant leader in Bakana on Tuesday. A statement from the spokesman of the security body, Lieutenant Col Sagir Musa, said the late Tubotamuno Angolia aka Boy Chiki was arrested by men of the JTF in the area.

He was said to have been shot when he attempted to break away from the custody of the soldiers who were to convey him to the state headquarters of the security body in Port Harcourt.

"This is to confirm the arrest of a notorious militant leader, one Tubotamuno Angolia a.k.a boy Chiki by the JTF troops on static deployment in Bakana on Tuesday. It would be recalled that due to recurrent militant crisis and subsequent exodus of people from Bakana community, the JTF commander decided to deploy troops in the area to contain the crisis.

Today (yesterday) we succeeded in the arrest of one of the most wanted criminals in our list. After the arrest he was brought to the local JTF unit headquarters in Bakana for onward movement to JTF headquarter in Port Harcourt.

"As they were about to move, he zoomed out and tried to run and efforts made to re-arrest him proved abortive. As a result, he was fired at, sustained bullet wounds which resulted in his death at about 900hrs same day (Tuesday).

The people of Bakana are thrown into joyous mood, jubilation as every where people were seen in groups dancing, looking happy, praising the JTF," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the umbrella body of various militant structures in the region, Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) has accused the security body of cold murder just as they threatened to make soldiers their target of attack in their planned resumption of hostilities in the region.

"We have gathered from a reliable source inside the military Joint Task Force that Mr. Tubotamuno Angolia a.k.a 'Boy Chiki' was murdered by the soldiers who effected his arrest on the order of the JTF regional commandant.

"Mr. Angolia was not a member of MEND, neither did he try escaping as suggested by the JTF to justify his killing.

Since the JTF is not a law unto itself, it cannot arrogate the type of justice to mete out to any suspect on its so-called wanted list. Our source tells us that Mr. Angolia was handcuffed, urinated and spat on by the soldiers who referred to him in the Northern Hausa language as a "dead dog" before pulling the trigger on the defenseless man."

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