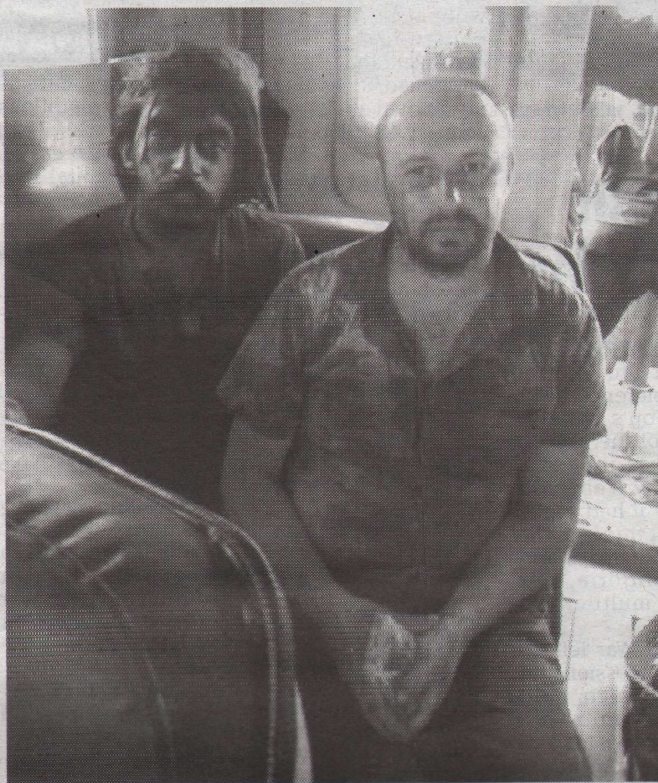


# 4 naval ratings killed by pirates in Ondo



The rescued foreigners(top) and one of the pirates(right).



By Dayo Johnson

**A**KURE—FOUR naval ratings have been killed in Gbagira village, Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State, while rescuing three foreigners from pirates.

The suspected killers also went away with four military rifles and seven magazines.

Vanguard gathered that the victims were deployed to rescue three foreigners that were kidnapped by the pirates in the community.

The community and its neighbours have been under tension following the invasion by security operatives.

Confirming the incident, Commanding Officer, Forward Operating Base in Igbokoda, Commodore Danjuma Ndanusa, said he had directed community leaders (*baales*) to produce the weapons or face dire consequences.

One of the pirates was reportedly apprehended in a suburb of Awoye community after the naval ratings were shot dead.

The suspected kidnappers reportedly came from Balyesa State via the high seas, through which some escaped with gunshot injuries, following a gun battle with the naval ratings.

Commodore Ndanusa said one of the pirates that was apprehended confessed that the missing rifles are in the community, adding that the rescued foreigners corroborated his claim.

His words: "We intimidated them on what is at stake. It is like sleeping on a time bomb. I told all the *baales* to get all their youths and speak with them.

## Olopa to di Woli clears air on police trouble: Impersonator was arrested, not me

By Dayo Johnson

**A**KURE—AN Akure-based pastor, Samuel Afolabi, of Christ Apostolic Church, CAC, New Jerusalem, aka Olopa to di Woli, yesterday, cleared the air on his alleged arrest and detention by the police, saying an impersonator was the one arrested.

Afolabi said he had never been invited by the police for any offence contrary to the rumour and never been engaged in fake miracles.

Describing the rumour as untrue and wicked, the clergyman, who spoke with newsmen, said his church was duly registered by government's relevant agency.

"That was why we did a total search and we found four telephones and one walkie-talkie belonging to the foreigners. I made this known to the four *baales* from the community.

"We also made a search on the boat they came with from Bayelsa and recovered empty magazines from guns on the floor of their boat.

"We placed a curfew in the four communities and on the activities on the waterway by putting pressure on them to produce the arms, because it is a threat to the innocents in the community."

Meanwhile, the communities have cried out that they were under siege and that both economic and social activities have been paralysed.

According to him, "the man that was using my name for wrongdoings, was the one arrested and remanded by the police in Okitipupa Local Government Area of the state."

Meanwhile, the state Police Command has corroborated the pastor, explaining that an impersonator of the pastor was arrested and not him.

Police image-maker, Femi Joseph, confirmed that the clergyman "does not have any case whatsoever with the Ondo State Police Command."

Joseph said a man named Ayetare Sunday, 35, a native of Itepe Okitipupa was arrested for impersonating Prophet Afolabi.

He added that he had since been charged to court and

remanded in prison for allegedly engaging in fake miracle, attempted rape and sexual harassment.

His words: "Ondo State Police Command wishes to debunk the claims that a popular pastor and prophet, Samuel Afolabi (aka Olopa to di Woli) was arrested and detained.

"The Command hereby makes it categorically clear that the above-named minister of God was never arrested for any offence as being peddled, hence the report was a blatant lie from the pit of hell, as the man never committed any offence known to law.

"On interrogation, the man confessed to be a fake prophet, who had been deceiving people by organising fake miracles."