

Oil thieves gun down NSCDC personnel in Rivers

By Egufe Yafugborhi

PORT HARCOURT—NIGERIAN Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) has confirmed the death of its personnel shot by armed men during a gun duel at an oil manifold operated by Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in Gio, Gokana Local Government Area, Rivers State.

The victim, Chief Corps Assistant Godwin Mbula, according to the NSCDC, was killed, yesterday, when suspected oil thieves attacked the oil facility to siphon oil, shooting at the security operatives on guard.

Muhammadu said: "The incident happened in the early hours of yesterday when gunmen invaded Shell manifold at Gio and shot at the victim. The gunmen suspected to be oil thieves had gone to siphon product, but were resisted by the NSCDC men guarding the manifold."

Muhammadu has ordered a manhunt for the perpetrators of the "dastardly and cowardly act", expressing regret that the nation was facing challenges with unrepentant vandals with the Corps relentless in thwarting their activities.

"Despite the attacks on our officers on daily basis, we have vowed to bring to an end to oil theft, illegal bunkering activities and attacks on all government critical infrastructures in the country," he further pledged.