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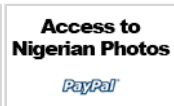
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Following incessant attacks from Niger Delta militants on unsuspecting persons which has often resulted in gun battle between the Joint Task Force and the militants in regions on the high sea, ten corpses suspected to be bodies of militants, were again recovered from the Bonny waters on Sunday, bringing the number of bodies so far found to fifteen within the last few weeks. Inhabitants of Bonny Island reliably disclosed this to Leadership.

Confirming the development, Army Public Relation Officer and spokesman of the Joint Task Force, Col Musa Sagir, also described as untrue the rumour making the rounds that a group of militants snatched gun boat belonging to the JTF during an encounter last Friday.

According to the Army spokesman, "men of the Joint Task Force in the state, encountered militants who were on ten speed boats, two of their boats sunk with all the occupants, our soldiers on ground also recovered four corpses of the militants, and four AK 47 rifles."

"The militants who were chasing a supply vessel when they ran into a team of the JTF on the waters, were the first to open fire. In the ensuing battle, two of their boats were sunk with all the occupants. To snatch a gun boat from military personnel on duty is very very impossible. To do that entails the killing of all the soldiers attached to the boat. But as long as they are alive, intact, it means the story is misleading.

Since the community source accepted that none of our soldiers were wounded in the process, it thus means that to say our boat was snatched is illogical. Ten speed boats belonging to militants encountered our men at their location. We sunk two of their boats. That Friday we recovered four corpses of the militants and four Ak 47 rifles," he said.

Thursday Column



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