

# Eight killed as police, pirates clash in Anambra

**S**IX pirates, a vigilance and constable in Onitsha have died following a clash between the Marine Police in Onitsha, Anambra State and sea pirates on the River Niger.

The clash, which began on Wednesday, lasted for almost the whole day.

The Onitsha Marine Police got a tip-off from a vigilance group at Otuocho in Anambra East council area that some sea pirates were about to operate at the River Niger, which prompted them to team up with the

**From Adimike George,  
Onitsha**

Asaba police command in neighbouring Delta State and the Onitsha Vigilance group to cordon off the escape route of the pirates.

When the bandits, who were six in number realised there was danger, they decided to risk the Nzam route which was unfamiliar to them.

On getting to Nzam, they were confused on the route to take.

As a result of the delay in their decision, the combined team of security op-

eratives attacked them.

The pirates escaped. But, they were pursued to the boundary towns of Akura in Kogi State and Ozigoro in Edo State, where a shoot-out ensued.

Three of the pirates were shot dead while a police constable attached to the Onitsha Marine and a local vigilance from Asaba were gunned down by the pirates.

A police inspector attached to the Asaba Marine Police was shot and wounded.

The remaining three pi-

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rates left their boats, three guns and other belongings and fled. Unfortunately, they were caught by the local vigilance group in the

area, who shot them dead.

Taking reporters round the recovered boat and one of the dead pirates at Onitsha Marine, the Commander, an Assistant Superintendent (ASP), Amaebi Datuowei, who was accompanied by the Onitsha Police Area Commander, Mr. Rasheed Akintunde, said it was a fight to finish.

“At a point we met face to face and they fired at us and managed to escape when we responded,” he said.

Akintunde said three guns, one AK47 and two rifles were recovered, including their boat.