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Nigeria sailors die in oil raids

Nigerian militants killed a sailor in the second attack in as many days on navy ships patrolling the country's oil-producing Niger Delta region.

Four people were wounded when the boat protecting a Canadian company Addax Petroleum vessel came under fire, police sources told the BBC.

In a separate attack on Monday another sailor was killed in a ship protecting a convoy belonging to the same company.



The sea surrounding Nigeria is one of the most dangerous in the world

Frequent attacks in the Niger Delta have cut Nigeria's oil production.

Nigeria is one of Africa's biggest oil-producing nations, but frequent pipeline bombings and other attacks by militants have reduced output by an estimated 25% and driven up oil prices.

Monday's attack happened in the Bonny Channel in Rivers State, and Tuesday's attack happened in the open water off Akwa Ibom State, Lt Col Musa Sagir said.

Last month the rebel group, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (Mend) said it attacked an oil pipeline belonging to Royal Dutch Shell in Rivers State.

Mend emerged in 2006. They say they are campaigning for a greater share of the region's oil wealth to be kept by local people, but the government says they are criminals motivated by the ransoms they receive from oil companies.

The remote and inaccessible creeks of the Delta are home to criminal gangs who seize oil workers for money and attack oil installations.

Piracy in Nigeria's waters has also increased in the last two years, making it one of the most dangerous shipping area in the world.

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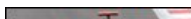
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