

N/Delta: **Militants kill expatriate, 3 Nigerians**

**TONY ITA ETIM, *Port Harcourt*
and DANIEL IDONOR, *Abuja***

SOME militants have killed an unidentified Dutch and three Nigerians in Bonny Island of Rivers State.

One of the casualties, a ferry boat captain, was reportedly pronounced dead in an undisclosed hospital, where he was receiving treatment for injuries suffered during an attack by unidentified gunmen on Bonny Island.

This brings to five, the number of deaths resulting from the attack on the boat owned by a Korean construction company.

The development came as President Olusegun Obasanjo waded into the dispute between Shell Petroleum Development

Continues on page 6

Company (SPDC) Nigeria Limited and its host communities in Ogoni land.

The boat, which belongs to Hyundai construction company, was attacked around 5.30pm Nigerian time at a spot along the Bonny River two kilometers to the Island.

A Dutch and three Nigerians are reported to have died at the spot during the attack while two expatriates and three Nigerians were wounded during the incident.

Spokeswoman for Rivers State Police Command, Mrs. Ireju Juliet Barasua, a Deputy Superintendent of Police confirmed the incident though she could not give the number of death, those wounded and the total number of passengers as at the time of attack..

Barasua said the command has beefed up police patrol in all the waterways in the state to forestall similar incident in future.

In a related development, residents of Kula community in Akuku Toru Local Government Area have fled the area following recent killings in the area and the heavy presence of a combined team of soldiers, police and naval personal in the area.

Daily Champion gathered that the exodus started last Friday

Militants

when fight broke out in the area and Ekulama 1 and 2 were; and when 12 chiefs including the community regent were killed.

Also yesterday Olusegun Obasanjo waded into the stalled relationship between Ogoni and Shell Petroleum Development Company that has resulted in the suspension of oil exploration in the area.

The President at the meeting, emphasized the need to ensure peace, harmony, reconciliation and sustainable development in the area.

The meeting that was also attended by the residential facilitator of the reconciliation in Ogoni land and representatives of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), also discussed the environmental problems in the community as a result of oil exploration and resolved that the UN body would assist in the efforts to clean up the environment.

It also discussed the relationship between the community and Shell which led to the exit of the company from the area in 1993.

The Minister of Environment and Housing, Helen Esuene, also attended the meeting.