

Militants abduct three Italian oil workers in Bayelsa

*From Willie Etim,
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BETWEEN 5.30 a.m. and 6.00 a.m. yesterday, youths suspected to be militants abducted three Italians who are employees of the Nigeria Agip Oil Company (NAOC) at the Brass Terminal in Bayelsa State.

The Swamp Manager of Agip base in Brass, one Mr. Reiner is said to be among the three workers kidnapped.

The militants who were said to be well-armed, stormed the oil terminal which is owned by Agip, and overpowered the security personnel after a prolonged gun battle, and disappeared with the abducted expatriate oil workers in the direction towards the Nembe creek.

After the attack, the enraged militants were said to have set ablaze all the speed boats that were anchored in the terminal jetty while they shot sporadically into different directions within the vicinity of the terminal.

According to reports, in the process of escaping with the kidnapped oil workers, one of the com-

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munity youths was shot dead on the spot, while another one sustained

ment

ceed on Christmas vacation next week, December 15.

Chief Justice Alfa Belgore presided over the case. With him were Justices Iyorgor Katsina-Alu, Niki Tobi, Dahiru Musdapher, George Adesola Ogunlade, Sunday Akinola Akintan and Ikechi Francis Ogbuagu.

The 18 pro-Adedibu lawmakers had gone to the Supreme Court seeking to reverse the November 1 verdict by the Court of Appeal, Ibadan, which had earlier voided the removal of Ladoja.

serious bullet wound, as they had attempted to confront the militants.

The Chief Press Secretary to the state governor, Mr. Ekiyor Welson, in an interview, explained that the governor, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, had been briefed about the matter and that he had directed all the people concerned to move into action.

Welson said the state government had taken over the matter and hoped to resolve it as soon as possible.

The Bayelsa State Police Commissioner, Mr. Hafix Ringim, who also confirmed the incident, told *The Guardian* that three oil workers were abducted at the brass terminal but that he could not readily ascertain their nationality.

Ladoja's removal