

# Five Feared Dead In Navy, Militants' Gun Battle

By Ofonime Umanah  
BUREAU CHIEF, Port Harcourt

Five people were feared dead on Sunday when Naval officers had a shoot-out with militants siphoning fuel on the waterways in Soku, Rivers State.

That came two weeks after an attack on a Naval facility in the neighbouring Bayelsa State, an incident for which the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) claimed responsibility to show that it is still active and ready to put the military might to the test.

The confrontation on Sunday happened as the Naval officers, on patrol of the waterways, ran into the militants who were carrying out illegal bunkering activities.

The barge used by the militants was sunk by the officers during the gun duel.

However, the military officer who confirmed the attack said there was no casualty on the side of the Navy, which is "ready for any counter attack."