

# Militants Attack ExxonMobil In Bonny, Kill One

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(with agency report)

Armed militants on Tuesday attacked a vessel operated by oil major, ExxonMobil, on Bonny River, Rivers State, killing a crew member and injuring another, private security contractors working with the oil company have alleged.

None of the militant groups operating in the area has claimed responsibility.

Politically motivated attacks by militants in the deep south, who last year shut down a fifth of

Nigeria's oil production, have subsided since President Umaru Yar'Adua took office in May but armed robbers and pirates still stage sporadic raids in the creeks.

Details of Tuesday's incident were sketchy but three security contractors said about seven or eight gunmen in a speedboat were sighted aboard the Seamark vessel on the Bonny River.

"One crew member was shot dead. They also shot the captain's cabin door and demanded money and in that process they shot and wounded another crew member," said one of the contractors.

"They ransacked the vessel taking away a laptop and some radio sets. The vessel then continued on its way and is now secure at Onne," the source said.

The victims were Nigerians, the source added.

Aso Rock has tried to negotiate a ceasefire with militant groups demanding local control over oil revenues for the impoverished communities of the Niger Delta. While the talks were on, attacks on oil facilities and kidnappings of oil workers have subsided.

But the line between militancy and crime is blurred in the Delta, which remains prone to violent attacks such as armed robberies and kidnappings for ransom.