



Men and Women who get ahead in Politics and Business read  
The Complete Newspaper: Daily Independent

Home | News | Politics | Business | Sports | Life | Subscribe | Search | Archive

Friday, 10 October 2008

**Breaking News:**

RATING: ★★★★★ (5/1=5)

Low ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ High ☐ Rate

Print This

E-mail This

## Pirates Resume Killings On Nigerian Waters

### *\*Kill Captains, Drown Shipmaster*

Indications that the collaborative efforts of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), and the Nigerian Navy, in the fight against pirates and armed robbery at sea is not working have been substantiated by the continuous attacks on fishing vessels with attendant loss of lives and properties.

In the last one week, two ship captains have been killed, one shipmaster was thrown overboard and is yet to be found, an assistant captain had his legs riddled with bullets and several others had varying degrees of injuries.

Some 42 attacks on ships were reported in 2007 compared with 28 in 2004, according to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB).

But the attacks have continued unabated in 2008. These latest attacks occurred on October 1 and 2 around Bonny Oil Terminal and Andoni in the Niger Delta region with no rescue operation coming to their rescue.

This has raised doubts about the efficiency of the Maritime Rescue and Coordinating Center (MRCC) which was commissioned by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Secretary-General Efthimios E. Mitropoulos.

The Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Trawler Owners Association, NITOA, Dr. M.C. Bisong told Daily Independent that the attacks have resumed in their earlier dimension in spite of the collaborative efforts of both the NIMASA and the Navy.

He said that "Right now, the industry is at crossroads and we don't know who would come to our rescue. It appears that the NIMASA, the Navy and their collaborative effort have not yielded any rapid response to the attacks as our vessels are still being attacked, hijacked, properties removed, products taken away and ransom demanded with loss of lives."

On the MRCC which was supposed to coordinate rescue operations, the NITOA Executive Secretary replied: "What can I say about the center? The center was established for this purpose and the purpose is not being felt. I don't even know the modalities they are working because they are supposed to be coordinating response. When the attack comes we normally inform the necessary officers, and when you call the officers involved, they will be giving you numbers to call instead of them to initiate the response procedure. So, what do you do? We are just helpless"

Meanwhile, pirates are said to have created their own republic within the Federal Republic of Nigeria, having a commander in chief and flag. Before fishing activity is carried out in these areas, some fees are paid and flags obtained.

According to Bisong, "they (Pirates) have established a republic in a republic. They have their own commander in chief. You have to pay to be allowed to fish. You will be given their flag before you are allowed to fish. They are a country of their own. You may be wondering about the whereabouts of the Joint Task Force (JTF) and the Navy. Where are they in the sea?" he queried.

### OTHER ARTICLES IN THIS SECTION

- Freight Forwarders Oppose Lagos Landing Fees Proposal
- Pirates Resume Killings On Nigerian Waters
- 'Port Concession Exercise A Learning Process'
- Maritime Workers' Union President Battle For Confidence Of Members

### [WazobiaJobs.com](http://WazobiaJobs.com)

West Africa's #1 Recruitment Portal Search and Find Jobs in West Africa  
[www.WazobiaJobs.com](http://www.WazobiaJobs.com)

### [Lloyd's List on Piracy](http://LloydsList.com/Piracy)

Bringing you the latest Piracy news and opinion including IMB reports  
[www.lloydslist.com/piracy](http://www.lloydslist.com/piracy)

### [Lagos Nigeria Africa](http://LagosNigeriaAfrica.com)

Visiting Nigeria & Need a Hotel? Lagos Nigeria Africa Bargains!  
[www.NexTag.com/Hotels](http://www.NexTag.com/Hotels)

Ads by Google

### Today's Top Stories

1. [Protests Trail Composition Of House Committees](#)
2. [African Problems Require African Solution - Odinga](#)
3. [You Don't Stumble On Leadership - Anya](#)
4. [Challenges Of Electoral Reform \(3\)](#)
5. [Indiscipline Costs Eaglets Algiers Ticket - Laloko](#)
6. [Laloko Cries Out Over Dishonesty In Nigeria Football](#)
7. ['Impact Of Insurance Not Felt In The Economy'](#)
8. [Yuguda Decries High Interest Rate Of Banks](#)
9. [Culture, Glamour Meet On Entertainment](#)
10. [Jethro Tours. Agenda For Hospitality Industry](#)

[See Full Listing Of Today's Content](#)

### Regional News

[Arewa](#) [Ndiabo](#) [Niger Delta](#) [Oduduwa](#)

- [Igbo Community In Kano To Host South East Leaders](#)
- [LG Adopts Communal Approach To Girl-child Education](#)
- [Jigawa: Moulding Character With Arabic Education](#)
- [Electricity Theft Rampant In Rural, Urban Settlements - Zanna](#)

### Editorial/ Letters



### **Olayinka Babasanya Craig (1948-2008)**

The recent demise of Olayinka Babasanya Craig, otherwise simply known as Yinka Craig, is a deadly blow to the journalism profession. It is especially so

### Op-Ed/ Comments

### **The Dead Art Of Investigation**

Join me as I work my way through this scenario: A policeman is in court to testify in a case of death by drowning in which foul

play

### Neglect Safety And Perish

"If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride." This old saying, in our age, the age of innovationism, modernism, progressivism, changism,

### Yar.Adua: Time To Return Home

"Nigerians who are exasperated by the slowness of Yar.Adua should therefore picture a collapsed building

## Columnist

### Conversation of an Angry man

#### Edem And The Money-spinning Spell

The former Chairman of the Niger Delta Development Commission, Ambassador Sam Edem, is keen to paint a picture of his being the hapless victim who was defrauded by a conman or if you prefer 419 unwittingly.

### Candour's Niche

#### 'Resource Curse' And Nigeria's Niger Delta

Last week I chaired a hearing on the "resource curse" and Africa's management of its extractive industries. In too many parts of Africa, a wealth of natural resources that should be fueling economic development are instead sources of corruption and conflict

### Scruples

#### This Sick Nation Needs Healthy Physicians

At 48, Nigeria is terribly sick, and some say nigh unto death, but that, as everyone can see, is the least of the worries of Mr. Umaru Yar'Adua, the President Gen

### The Roundtable

#### "How Well Is Our President?"

If you shut yourself up disdainfully in your ivory tower and insist that you have your own conscience and are satisfied with its approval, it is because you know

### Speaking Out

#### Between Constitution Reform And Review

Two weeks ago when the National Assembly members were disagreeing on how to use the sums of money they have set aside for the work of the Committees on

### Independent Opinion Poll

Is MEND Truly Fighting For The Development Of NigerDelta Region.?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Uncertain

[Submit Vote](#)

[Current Results](#)

#### [Lloyd's List on Piracy](#)

Bringing you the latest Piracy news and opinion including IMB reports  
[www.lloydslist.com/piracy](http://www.lloydslist.com/piracy)

#### [Lifeboats - Davits](#)

Lifeboats - Rescue boats - Davits Fast response on inquiries!  
[www.noreq.no](http://www.noreq.no)

#### [Marine Software solutions](#)

Software for technical ship mngrt Maint, QA, Purchasing, Docking etc  
[www.sismarine.com](http://www.sismarine.com)

#### [Lagos Property](#)

Large Selection of Property For Sale In Portugal  
[www.prestigeproperty.co.uk](http://www.prestigeproperty.co.uk)