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Bonny attack claims one, others injured

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The Bonny indigenous Fishermen Cooperative Union (BIFCU) has cried foul over a recent gun attack that claimed the life of one of its members, the late Mr. Ntiense-Abasi Ezekiel, and left Mr. Godday Ossah riddled with bullet wounds while Maxwell Philip, Mr. Etim Ndaowo and John Akpan had been left traumatized.

The group's president, Promise Bristol, stated that the fishermen were attacked unprovoked by a crew of fishing trawler boat named LILLY II belonging to Atlantic Shrimpers Limited, whose office is located at NPA, Apapa Phase 1 Kirikiri Lighter Terminal, Apapa/Oshodi Expressway, Lagos Nigeria. According to him, "the union members went out for fishing on January 22, 2014. The type and size of their fishing boat is 4 1/2 fathom boat and a 9.9 horse power Yamaha outboard engine.

"The fishermen, who are residents of the sand fill area of Bonny, went out for Bonga fishing within 2.8 nautical miles off the shores of the NLNG RA1 beach in the early hours of the above date. It was within this point that they carried out their fishing activities and after casting their nets the said trawler sailed into their set nets.

"On seeing the damage caused to their fishing gears, the fishermen started shouting and waving at the fish trawlers in a bid to inform them of the damage of their nets and how they could retrieve them but to no avail. "They then decided to drive towards the fishing vessel as they approached the vessel, the crew of the fish trawlers opened sporadic gun fire on the fishermen.

"Late Mr. Ntiense-Abasi Ezekiel who was positioned at the bow of the canoe was shot dead instantly with bullet wounds in his chest and stomach." According to him, the driver of the canoe having seen one of his crew members shot dead swerved the boat away from the trawler but sustained bullet wounds on his leg.

"On arrival to Bonny, the victims of the trawler shooting went to the Bonny marine police office to make entries and ended up being detained and later were transferred to the Rivers State CID Moscow road PortHarcourt where they were later released.

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