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Gunmen kill Bayelsa former commissioner's aide, another

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By **Igoniko Oduma** (*Yenagoa*) and
Oladele Ogunsola (*Ibadan*)

Two persons were shot dead on Saturday in Bayelsa State by gunmen suspected to be sea pirates operating along the Nembe-Brass water ways of the state.

The victims were identified as Bukuromo Odidikuma and Awotimigha Iyabi, a former aide to ex-Commissioner for Information during the administration of Governor Timipre Sylva, Nathan Egba.

An aspirant to the Bayelsa State House of Assembly in next year's election, Alfred Belemote, a mobile police escort and driver of the boat, however, survived the attack, but with injuries.

It was gathered that they were travelling from Yenagoa, the state capital, to Okpoma in Brass Local Government Area, to attend the burial ceremony of one of their relatives.

Sources said they were attacked near 'Abuja Fishing Camp', about 15-minute drive to their destination, Okpoma.

The armed bandits were said to have attacked no fewer

than two speed boats along the water ways, dispossessing victims of their valuables, including money and hand sets.

The boat conveying the deceased, it was learnt, ran into the robbery operation of the criminals who opened fired on them as they attempted to escape through an adjoining creek.

But another account claimed that the gunmen laid ambush for the boat conveying the deceased.

According to the source, the gunmen had stopped one of the speed boats in the convoy of two used by the deceased and were reportedly heard shouting, "He is not here. It is the second boat."

Former Bayelsa Commissioner for Information, Nathan Egba, confirmed the incident, describing Awotimigha as "a non-violent and gentle man".

Police Public Relations Officer at Bayelsa Police Command, Alex Akhigbe, also confirmed the incident, saying "Yes, it is true that two persons died in the attack."

It was also a day of commotion in Ibadan, Oyo State capital on Saturday following resistance from students of Federal College of Agriculture, Adabeji, Apata, over the arrest of their colleague, popularly known on campus as Boluwatife (alias Active).

The confrontation between the Police and the students, who resorted to use of force to secure the release of one of their own who was in police custody, degenerated.

The confrontation in front of the school led to a huge logjam on both ends of the Ibadan/Abeokuta motorway and commotion in the school premises.

An eyewitness account disclosed that trouble started when some students of the institution mounted a road block around their Bora Hostel, located some kilometres away from the school, soliciting for money from motorists in preparation for their Bora Week celebration.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Olabisi Ilobanefor could not be reached on any of her mobile the telephone lines for the police reaction to the

incident.

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