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## Pirates kill soldier, injure others in Bayelsa

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By Igoniko Oduma

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**A soldier** attached to the Joint Task Force in the Niger Delta code-named 'Operation Pulo Shield', has been killed by pirates operating on the waterways of Nembe, in Nembe Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

It was gathered that other soldiers were also injured in the attack on the JTF operatives on Tuesday by the gun-welding pirates.

The soldiers were said to be on patrol of the waterways when they ran into the pirates, who reportedly operated on a vessel that looked like a speedboat.

It was learnt that the soldiers on sighting the speedboat attempted to flag it down for a routine check.

Instead of stopping in obedience to the soldiers' directive, the hoodlums were said to have opened fire on the patrol team.

Security sources said the soldiers engaged the pirates who immediately escaped during the exchange of fire.

One of the soldiers, identified as Rabi, was said to have been hit by the bullets of the criminals while the driver of the patrol boat, a civilian, and others sustained injuries.

Rabi was said to have died at the Brass Terminal operated by the Nigerian Agip Oil Company where the injured casualties were rushed after the encounter.

The source, who craved anonymity, said medical personnel battled in vain to save Rabi's life.

"They didn't know that the occupants of the speedboat were pirates. They waved them but they refused to stop. The next thing was that the pirates engaged the soldiers", he narrated.

JTF said the patrol team successfully repelled sea pirates' attack along the waterways.

"Troops of the Joint Task Force, Operation Pulo Shield, patrolling along Ogbia-Brass route on a tip of sea robbery operation were attack at Orukiri – fishing Camp in the early hours of today, October 14, 2014", Joint Media Co-ordinator, Mustapha Anka, said in a statement on Tuesday while reacting to the incident.

"The incident resulted in exchange of fire between JTF troops and sea robbers. A soldier was wounded during the incident while the rest returned to base safely", he added.

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