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Nigeria: Five Naval Officers Perish in Good Friday Fire Outbreak

Leadership (Abuja)**23 March 2008**

Posted to the web 24 March 2008

Chika Otuchikere

Five officers of the Nigeria Navy Friday, lost their lives following injuries they received while attempting to put out a fire which broke out on a navy patrol boat in Rivers State.

According to the public relations officer of the NNS Pathfinder Base, Rumuolumeni, Rivers State, Lt. Way Olabisi, who disclosed the tragedy to the media, the officers were rushed to a hospital immediately after the accident, where they finally gave up the ghost.

Olabisi who pointed out that the fire was caused by an electrical fault said it was not the handiwork of militants.

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"I can confirm to you that we lost five of our men after the fire incident and they died last night in a hospital", Olabisi said.

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The public relations officer however stated that the incident would not affect the determination of the Navy to put a stop to the activities of oil bunkerers in the Niger Delta region.

"We still want to state that the fire and loss of our men will not affect our patrol and fighting capacity. NNS pathfinder Base will not be deterred in its effort to curtail oil bunkering on our waterways.

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