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Three ex-militants killed in Navy, pirates clash

 By [Kunle Johnson](#) | Published 30/12/2009 | [News](#) | Unrated

Three persons suspected to be former members of the Bakassi Freedom Fighters (BFF) have been killed in a clash between a patrol team of the Nigerian Navy NNS Victory and armed bandits in the Little Kwa River in Cross River State.

The Navy also arrested Godday Isaac, a former aide to BFF leader Gen. Franklin.

It recovered two AK-47 rifles and one speed boat in the clash.

The Commanding Officer of NNS Victory, Cmdr. Gabriel Adebayo, told reporters in Calabar that his men were attacked on routine patrol in the creeks of Little Kwa River and responded by killing three pirates.

He, however, said the bodies of the victims were carted away by the fleeing robbers who abandoned one speed boat and two AK-47 rifles.

Adebayo said the arrested former aide to the BFF leader was also found to be carrying an amnesty identity card.

He expressed concern over rising cases of lawlessness by some people who had been granted amnesty but said the Navy would intensify its operations to make the waterways safe.

He recalled that on December 23, about 15 pirates attacked a Malabo - Calabar ferry passenger vessel, *MV Monica Express* carrying traders from Malabo and disposed them of their money.

According to Adebayo, one woman was stripped by the robbers.

Adebayo believes that some former militants have taken to "criminality to maintain a false standard of living".

Isaac, however, denied that he was part of the group that attacked the Navy Patrol Team.

Isaac said he left his home in Essien Town, Calabar on Monday to Akpa Irok, in search of his missing speedboat engine when the Navy team arrived at the scene.

He said he saw people running away but that he refused to run since he was not part of the group that attacked the Navy.

About 400 former members of the BFF last Wednesday disrupted business in a new generation bank on Mary Slessor Avenue, Calabar, demanding that they be paid their resettlement allowances.

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