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Four suspected pirates feared dead

Posted by: Nicholas Kalu, Calabar in News 2 hours ago

Four suspected sea pirates were yesterday feared dead after a shootout with men of the NNS Victory of the Nigerian Navy in Calabar, the Cross River State capital.

One of the naval officers, Seaman, Barau Ibrahim, suffered a gunshot wound on his hip.

The navy succeeded in capturing one of the suspected sea pirates, who gave his name as Bassey Bassey, and brought him to the NNS Victory base.

The leader of the navy team, Lt. Linus Osuman, said about 8:30am yesterday, as they were escorting a Cameroonian vessel, the BRENDA CORLETT, in their gunboat, they came across a couple of speed boats around Parrot Island near the Oron Bar.

He said immediately the occupants of the boats, who they suspected wanted to rob the vessel, saw the naval team, they took off.

Lt. Osuman said they pursued the suspected pirates and one of the boats disappeared into the creeks, adding that the other one developed engine problem and broke down.

He said when they were approaching the boat that had broken down, seven men rose from the boat and shot them with AK47 rifles.

Lt. Osuman said they fired back and in the process, four of the robbers were hit and they fell into the river, adding that others escaped by jumping into the river.

He said they, however, apprehended one of them.

"The captured robber had charms tied all over him," he said.

Lt. Osuman said their boats would return to the scene to see if they would recover anything.

The Commander of the NNS Victory, Commodore James Oluwole, said they patrolled the waterway everyday.

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