

Sea pirates kill two in Rivers waterways

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By Rosemary Nwisi, Port Harcourt

Unknown armed men suspected to be sea pirates have killed two persons on Bille waterways in Degema Local Government Area (LGA) of Rivers State.

The incident, which reportedly happened, early hours of yesterday, could not be confirmed by the spokesman of the State Police Command, Nnamdi Omoni, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), as at the time of filing this report.

Omoni said the police in the state were not aware of any such attack and noted that the police have at least four gunboats that parade the waterways in the state, including Bille, but that no such news was reported to him.

Meanwhile, the Chairman, Degema Cluster 1, Firimagbo Bob Ogunga, who confirmed the attack to The Nation on a telephone interview yesterday said the victims were members of the rescue team (surveillance)

who went to save and rescue passengers boats that were being attacked by the sea criminals.

He said, “It is true, Sea pirates attacked and killed two persons on our (Bille) waterways, early hours of today.

“This is not the first time this has happened; it happens from time to time, and to me, government is not just doing anything about it.

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“For more than one year now, we have been suffering this way; all efforts to draw government attention is not yielding any result; we are afraid to go home, the worst of it is that whenever they killed people like this, they throw the bodies into the water.

“It happened that today, when we heard that the criminals were attacking passengers this morning, we sent some people to go and rescue them; on seeing them (those on rescue missions), the criminals opened fire on them, killing two and injuring many others.

“Governor Nyesom Wike has at various public events and security meetings announced that he has launched several security patrol boats for the areas, but I can tell you that the people do not get to that area; we do not see their presence anywhere around there, nothing is actually going on there; there is no security coverage on our waterways,” he lamented.

Speaking on the route the dire devils always waylay their victims, he said, “This attack always takes place in Bille territory between Sombrero River, up to Isakka route.”