

July 5, 2010

One Dead as Pirates Abduct 14 Expatriates

The bad days seem to be here again as sea piracy resurfaced in Rivers State with the killing of an unidentified foreign sea farer and kidnapping of 14 others on board two cargo vessels, one of which was identified as BBC Palonia.

The attack was reported by the Nigerian navy from their NNS Pathfinder control base whose Commander, Commodore Umar Ahmed and the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Dr. Rita Abbey confirmed. It allegedly took place yesterday at the Bonny Fairbouy, some nautical miles from Bonny jetty.

The crew members taken hostage were described as "mainly Eastern Europeans" though the Navy and the Police assured that the victims have already mobilised to ensure that they were freed expeditiously. However, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack: which took place at 1800hrs.

"Commander Navy Pathfinder informed (Police) Command that on 2/7/2010 that pirates attacked Cargo Vessel BBC Palonia and one other at about 6 pm, from South of Bonny FWB. The crew is eastern European. One confirmed shot dead, others taken hostage. Nigerian Navy already deployed from Bonny to investigate," a confirmatory message from the police said.

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