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NIGER DELTA WATCH

CAPTURING NEWS, EVENTS, DEVELOPMENTS, ANALYSIS, OPINIONS AND ACTIVITIES AS THEY
RELATE TO THE OIL AND GAS SATURATED NIGER DELTA REGION OF NIGERIA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2008

20 Bodies Of Militants Recovered From Bonny River



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Chika Mefor

Rescuers yesterday picked 20 bodies of suspected militants killed in fighting with members of the military Joint Task Force (JTF) on Bonny River on Friday.

JTF spokesman Lt-Col. Sagir Musa said that three boats belonging to the militants were destroyed in the clash.

Residents of Bonny watched with shock as the bodies were picked from the river.

Heavily armed military personnel were patrolling the river Saturday.

Musa said that the task force also recovered four bodies and AK 47 rifles after yesterday's attack.

Meanwhile, Somali militants who hijacked a Nigerian merchant ship, on Tuesday, holding its captain, Graham Egbegi, and its crew hostage are demanding a ransom of 1 million dollars (about N117 million) for their release.

Trigo Egbegi, the captain's elder brother, disclosed this in a text message to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) yesterday in Lagos. Egbegi, a journalist and secretary of the Nigeria Boxing Board of Control (NBB of C), said that the captain was allowed to contact his family after five days in captivity.

He said that the ship, Yenagoa Ocean, belonging to ESL Integrated Services, had berthed in Mogadishu to enable some crew members who were sick to seek medical attention.

Egbegi said that the ship was on its way from Dubai through the Pacific when it was hijacked.

He said the captain had earlier obtained clearance to head for

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