

Two feared killed in Rivers pirate attacks

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Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Joseph Mukan

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

Two persons were feared dead and three others missing after suspected pirates attacked two passenger boats along the coastal waters of Aru-Gbanaama and Polokiri in the Bonny local government area of Rivers State.

City Round gathered that the passengers were returning from a carnival in Dema Okekpe community to Bonny main town in the evening when the hoodlums intercepted the boat and attacked its occupants with weapons on January 5, 2021.

A source who pleaded anonymity said the first boat was attacked when the driver stopped midway to remove debris from the engine, with the pirates hitting two of the victims with paddles and machetes on the head and other parts of their body, while other occupants of the boat were pushed into the river.

Unaware of the danger ahead, the source disclosed that the second boat approached the scene and was also attacked before he could make a detour with many of the passengers jumping into the water when they saw the injuries inflicted on the travellers on the other boat.

The source stated, “They were using paddle, machetes and bottles to hit them while they were struggling for their lives. They pushed the other passengers into the water. If not for the marine police and the Joint Taskforce, more people would have died.”

The Chairman, Bonny Local Government, Rogers Irimagha, who confirmed the incident in a telephone interview with our correspondent, urged the people of the area to remain calm, adding that the council was handling the case involving the missing persons.

Irimagha said, “I want the people of Bonny Local Government to have faith in the leadership of our government. As I speak to you, we are working with the security agencies to ensure that we put a final stop to this continued ugly incident.

“It has been on over time, even before my emergence as council chairman. But we are working tirelessly to end it. I want to commend the security agencies for their ability to answer distress calls. They have been doing their best to ensure that we have security.”

Efforts to reach the police spokesperson in the state, Nnamdi Omoni, was not successful as he neither picked his calls nor replied to a text message sent to his mobile by our correspondent.

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