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# Six sea pirates killed in gun battle with Naval officers

Our Reporter

August 28, 2013

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From JUDEX OKORO, Calabar

Six suspected sea pirates have been killed by men of the NNS Victory of the Nigerian Navy along Parrot Island off Calabar channel in Cross River State. An eyewitness said that the dreaded sea pirates met their waterloo after a gun duel with the Naval officers who were escorting a Cameroonian vessel, Brenda Corlett, in their gunboat.

The account said that at about 9am yesterday, the sea robbers in four gunboats with over 15 persons on board positioned their boats along the Parrot Island set to rob the vessel, but when they sighted the Naval gunboats, they fled.

Sensing that they were pirates, the Naval operatives went after them and there was a shoot-out. Six of them were killed while the rest disappeared into the creeks just as one suspect simply called Bassey from Akpabuyo in the state, was arrested. Bassey claimed he is one of the ex-militants.

The Naval officers brought him into the NNS Victory base yesterday. Briefing newsmen in Calabar, the leader of the Naval team, Lieutenant Linus Osuman, said, "yesterday, as we were escorting a Cameroonian vessel, Brenda Corlett, in their gunboat, we came across a couple of speed boats around Parrot Island. Immediately, the boats we suspected had wanted to rob the vessel sighted the Naval team, they fled.

"Without wasting time, we gave them a chase and one of the boats disappeared into the creeks. The other developed an engine problem and was stucked. While approaching the boat that had broken down, about seven men got up and started firing at us with AK47s.

"We had to return fire and in the process, at least four of the robbers were hit and they fell

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into the water. The others jumped into the river while one of the robbers was captured with charms tied around him," he said.

The Commander of the NNS Victory, Commodore James Oluwole, said: "The waterways require daily presence to keep them safe. The day we are not here, they would wreak havoc. We shall continue to sustain this operation,"

Captain of the *Brenda Corlett*, Richard Nkollei, said: "We are thankful for the Navy's intervention. Since they established their presence in the waterways, we have not been witnessing such incidents."

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Chidi August 28, 2013 at 8:25 am - Reply

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