

# Attack on Warship: 7 Pirates Killed, Says Navy

Nigerian Navy yesterday reacted to reports on the attack on its warship, NNS Obula by militants, maintaining that the attackers were "Sea robbers" and seven of them were killed.

Reacting to the Wednesday early morning attack, Director, Naval Information, Captain Henry Babalola, said contrary to the claim of the "sea robbers," the attack happened not at an oil rig, but in an area where fishing trawlers largely

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*From Juliana Taiwo*

*in Abuja*

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operate.

Babalola confirmed the death of one of the Naval personnel on "look-out duties" on board the Naval vessel, adding that security men on guard the ship "immediately opened fire, resulting in the death of seven sea robbers, while the remaining boats fled."

He said the whole idea of the attacks was to scare the

fishing trawlers into believing that the Navy was incapable of protecting them, saying unfortunately, "this has fallen flat on their face as NNS Obula, joined by other ships are still on task."

While calling for political solution to the Niger Delta problem, he warned of dire consequences, "if sea robbers and other miscreants do not desist from attacks," on its facilities.

The Navy said its matured restraint should not be mistaken for lack of fire power to curtail illegalities in the Niger Delta.

The statement reads: "the Nigerian Navy's attention is drawn to the rather distorted version of her ship, NNS Obula's encounter with sea robbers posing as militants off Finnuwa oil fields in the early hours of October 31, 2007. The ship was on routine patrol in an area where fishing trawlers largely operate due to upsurge in attacks on trawlers, when a look-out on the ship observed that a boat was approaching menacingly."

## Energy Crisis, Yar'Adua Assures

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*By Emmanuel Ugwu*

*in Umuahia*

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establishment of the Aba IPP, Yar'Adua called on other investors both local and foreign, to borrow a leaf from Nnaji by investing in Nigeria's power sector brimming with opportunities provided by the reforms of the sector.

He urged Nigerians in the Diaspora to think home and like Nnaji, bring their expertise

and money to help Nigeria out of the energy doldrums.

He said: "it is gratifying to know that while we are soliciting for assistance of foreign experts and investors, our own men and women in the Diaspora, as exemplified by Nnaji are responding positively to our call to be part of Nigeria's development. The \$250 million project is the first major investment by a Nigerian in Diaspora."