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JTF Kills 6 Militants, Frees Hijacked Vessel

From Ahamefula Ogbu in Port Harcourt, 04.29.2009

In what looked like an upswing after a lull, the Military Joint Task Force said yesterday it killed six militants who attacked their men without provocation at Samaa, near Buguma, in Rivers State. The JTF also freed a vessel Pacon One along Bonny Fairway Buoy, while on patrol of the area. The vessel was also allegedly attacked by pirates who attempted to hijack it before a naval patrol came to their rescue and freed them from the attackers.

Also on the same day, five suspected militants in military fatigue allegedly attacked a 25-passenger boat at Isaka River near Bonny and dispossessed them of their personal belongings, while a young girl in the boat was raped.

According to Coordinator of the Joint Media Campaign Center (JMCC) of JTF in Bayelsa State, Colonel Rabe Abubakar, his men were on routine patrol when the militants opened fire on them at about 3.30 p.m. on April 27, 2009.

He said they returned fire, drowning six of the militants suspected to be members of the Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (NDPVF) in the process, while they suffered no casualty.

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