

One hostage, 4 kidnappers killed in gun battle

**By Samuel Oyadongha,
Jimitota Onoyume & Victor
Ahiuma-Young**

BONNY—AN attempt by soldiers to rescue seven foreign oil workers abduct-

ed early yesterday in Rivers State ended on a tragic note after one of the abducted men and four abductors were killed in a gun battle between the soldiers and the kidnap-

pers.

At least one other abducted oil workers was wounded. But the soldiers succeeded in freeing the remaining hostages.

“During the attempt by Nigerian military marines to free the seven hostages on the FPSO Mystrars, gunfire was exchanged during which a
Continues on Page 15

launching of the book, *The Interdependence* by Senate President, Chief Ken Nnamani in Abuja, yesterday. Photo by Gbemiga Olamikan.

One hostage, 4 kidnappers killed in gun battle

Continues from Page 1

hostage was killed while six others, one of whom was wounded, were freed and are safe," the Italian oil group, Eni, owners of the oil facility said on its website last night.

Eni did not give the nationality of the dead or injured hostage, but it had earlier identified the kidnapped oil workers as one Italian, one Briton, a Filipino, two Finns, a Pole and a Romanian.

Vanguard gathered that most of the hostage-takers were arrested.

A source told *Vanguard*: "After the militants had successfully kidnapped the seven oil workers, they were retreating into the creeks and ran into a patrol team of the armed forces and there was a heavy exchange of gun fire. During the process, one of the expatriates was killed and another seriously wounded. Quite a number of the militants were killed and others arrested. As it is, I doubt if any of the militants

was able to escape from either being killed or arrested.

"I can tell you that there is a serious tension in the expatriate community in the oil industry. The issue of insecurity in the oil producing areas has taken a dangerous dimension. This is the first time an expatriate worker would be killed since the kidnapping problem started. Earlier in the year, a Nigerian employee of

Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Nelson Ujeya, was killed in similar circumstances."

This development came barely 24 hours after gunmen attacked the office of an NGO, Academic Associates Peace Works, run by an American in Port Harcourt, Dr Judith Asuni, killing two persons on the spot.

I'll restore Nigeria's lost

By Emeka Mamah

KADUNA — THE People's Democratic Party (PDP) presidential aspirant, Commodore Ebitu Ukiwe (rtd) says he will re-invent Nigeria and restore her lost glory if elected as president next year. He made the pledge while addressing the party's delegates to the December 16 national conven-

tion of the party from the North Central zone in Kaduna yesterday.

He also said he would implement a 12-point programme aimed at turning the economy round in the shortest possible time. Ukiwe said it was through such programme that he would entrench integrity, dignity and trust in governance as the hallmark of good leadership.

ey the
mount
now al
the na
the na
the na
becau
their
and a
proble
ring o
"If
how c
tion t
tus of
Ore-F
the n

"I c
you ai
men a
not lo
you th
ble. I
foun
great
possi
"I c
news
dren
is wh