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JTF, pirates clash in Bayelsa

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By Samuel Oyadongha & Emem Idio

Yenagoa—A soldier attached to the Joint Task Force in the Niger Delta, codenamed Operation Pulo Shield, was yesterday feared dead, while a boat driver sustained gunshot injuries after a violent shootout with suspected pirates along Ogbia-Nembe-Brass route in the Bayelsa East senatorial district.

However, the authorities of the Joint Task Force said one of its operatives was wounded during the incident, while others returned safely to base.

An eyewitness in the area told Vanguard that the attack occurred along Opukiri fishing port, along Nembe Creek.

The source hinted that an exchange of gun fire ensued between the sea pirates and soldiers, with one of the soldiers reportedly killed.

The source added that the locals were instrumental to rescuing six men of the Joint Task Force, noting that while four were unhurt, one was in critical condition.

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