

11 corpses discovered in abandoned boat in Rivers

✓ By Davies Iheamnochor

PORT HARCOURT—ELEVEN dead bodies reportedly abandoned in a boat by suspected pirates at Jerusalem Creek, around Ke Clan, Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State, have been discovered by security operatives.

A source, who gave his name simply as Emma, alleged that the victims were yet to be identified at press time.

The source disclosed that the security operatives had sighted a boat with some unknown person from a distance towing another boat that had no occupant.

Emma added that the security

operatives, who had suspected the persons in the said boat to be pirates, tried to approach them, but the occupants fled.

He said: "Yesterday (Sunday) afternoon, government security agents, on search operations at Jerusalem Creek in Ke community, had an encounter with suspected pirates operating in two speedboats and towing another from a distance.

"During the encounter, the pirates abandoned the towed boat and fled into a nearby creek. A further search by the security men on the abandoned boat revealed 11 dead bodies and one AK-47 rifle.

"It was reported that the

incident was a suspected case of an attack on seafarers and local community members at New Jerusalem waterside about an hour earlier.

In a related development, security operatives found a den of kidnappers around Akada area of Elele community in Ikwerre council.

A source disclosed that two of the gang members, Chidi Amaechi, alias *Pepper*, and Oyenma Aniah, alias *Otega*, were shot dead, while an AK-47 and locally-fabricated pistol were recovered.

However, at press time, the Public Relations Officer of the Rivers State Police Command, DSP Nnamdi Omoni, could not confirm the reports.