

Nigerian militants free 13 hostages

by UPI

YENAGOA, Nigeria - Nigerian militants released 13 oil industry hostages unharmed after they were abducted at gunpoint in several attacks on May 25.

The governor of Bayelsa introduced the group of hostages to reporters at his office in Yenagoa. They included five U.S. citizens, three Britons, two Indians, a Filipino, a South African and a Nigerian, the BBC reported.

Officials estimate there are about 20 foreign oil industry workers still missing, abducted by factions of a rebel group demanding the expulsion of foreign oil companies from the oil-rich Niger Delta.

Nearly 200 people have been kidnapped since January 2006, the report said.

A BBC correspondent in Nigeria said almost all of the releases are achieved by ransom paid by oil companies but the amounts and terms aren't revealed.

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