

Two oil workers kidnapped in Nigeria

by UPI

PORT HARCOURT, Nigeria -- Nigerian gunmen took two foreign oil workers hostage after attacking an oil installation in the country's petroleum-rich Niger Delta.

The armed men reportedly attacked the installation by speedboat and nabbed the two workers, Nigeria's Vanguard newspaper reported Monday.

More than 150 people have been abducted from the delta since the beginning of the year.

Since the 1970s, Nigeria, Africa's largest oil producer, has pumped more than \$300 billion worth of crude oil from the southern delta states, according to estimates.

However, high unemployment in the Niger Delta, environmental degradation due to oil and gas extraction, and a lack of basic resources such as fresh water and electricity have angered the region's youth, who have taken up arms.

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