

Terrorists Strike Nigerian Oil Pipeline

Contributed by Tom McGregor
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Mend, Nigerian oil militants, destroyed an oil pipeline in southern Nigeria during their first assault in more than a year. According to the BBC News, "a statement claiming to be from Mend, a militant group that signed an amnesty in 2009 said the attack was a reminder of their presence in the area."

Observers claimed they heard an explosion at a pipeline operated by Eni, an Italian firm, in Bayelsa state on Saturday evening. However, the company refused to comment and officials announced they could not confirm that an attack had actually occurred.

As reported by the BBC, "the Movement for Emancipation of the Niger Delta (Mend) was once a feared militant group – its bombings and kidnappings paralyzed the industry. It claimed to be fighting for more rights and a share of oil wealth for local people."

After signing a truce with the government in 2009, many of the group's leaders renounced violence.

To read the entire article from the BBC News, link here: Mcgregor@chinadaily.com.cn