

ARMED ROBBERY ATTACK ON MARINE 711 IN GHANA WATERS



Information on Hijacking of Vessel

- The Fisheries Monitoring Center in Tema received a distress call from the owners of Marine 711 (AFT 28), a Pole and Line Tuna vessel, in the evening of Monday 26 March, 2018 about the possible hijacking of the vessel by suspected armed robbers. 45 Crew including 3 Korean officers, and one observer.
- It was the third vessel that was attacked by the armed robbers on the same day.
- The Ghanaian flagged vessel was fishing in Ghanaian waters around Ada in the Greater Accra Region and Keta in the Volta Region for bait when it was suddenly boarded by the robbers who were in an unmarked speed boat.
- The robbers were possibly attracted by the illegal bunkering activities that takes place in Ghana's marine waters.
- The robbers who spoke English with a Nigerian accent numbered four initially, but five others later joined. They also brought on board three persons, including a Ghanaian, they had abducted from other vessels.

Vessel sailed to Nigeria waters

- The robbers took control of the vessel and ordered the captain to proceed eastwards to Togo and then to Benin waters.
- Marine 711 finally entered Nigeria waters in the evening of 27 March 2018, where the robbers quickly disembarked into a smaller speed boat and sped off, after the vessel was contacted by a Portuguese military aircraft partaking in Obangame 2018.
- The robbers abducted three Korean crew members of the tuna vessel; they also took along two of the three persons they had earlier abducted. Below are the details of the abducted Korean crew.

Abducted officers on the Vessel

Name	Rating
Hyon Yong Ho	Captain
Kim Il Dol	Chief Officer
Jeong Dae Young	Chief Engineer

Released of Vessel by Armed Robbers

- After the armed robbers had eventually disembarked the Ghanaian second officer sailed the vessel back to Ghana waters on 28 March 2018, where personnel of the Ghana Navy boarded the vessel and escorted the vessel to Tema port.
- The entire Ghanaian crew numbering forty-four (44), including the observer, was received by personnel from various Governmental agencies.
- The Flag Officer Commanding (FOC) of the Eastern Naval Command in Tema, Commodore J.O. Kontoh briefed pressmen about the incident.

Collaboration in Investigations

- The Navy personnel exhibited items left on board Marine 711, including live and spent ammunition, a long metal ladder, ropes and wooden hooks used to facilitate boarding of vessels at sea.
- The security agencies collaborated in investigations aimed at securing the rescue of the abducted crew and the arrest and prosecution of the armed robbers.
- The abducted persons who were hidden in the Port Harcourt area were released on 27 April 2018 after long negotiations with the owners and Korean officials and payment of an undisclosed amount of money.

Items left on board Marine 711



Mitigating Threats of Armed Robbery in Ghanaian waters and beyond

- In mitigating threats of armed robbery in Ghanaian waters, a meeting was organized for operators of industrial vessels on 4 May 2018. The following were recommended:
 - Sharing of information
 - Interagency collaboration and coordination
 - Use of “channel 16” for radio communication
 - Background checks on crew members.
 - Security training for crew of fishing vessels
 - Special Task Force team to be formed
 - Proper crew management
 - Air patrolling
 - Piracy and National Security issues.