

Soldiers Again: Two Communities Destroyed, 10 Killed

Two communities of Tombia, Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State were raided on Wednesday, October 26 by military joint task force. The rampaging military team stormed the two communities, Iyalla-Ama and Elem-Tombia along the cawthrone Channel, area in 7 gunboats and another 3 boats fully loaded with battle ready soldiers.

On arrival, they opened fire shooting and bombing sporadically. A military helicopter also participated in bombing the communities from air. Virtually all the houses were completely brought down, rendering the entire population homeless. 10 people were reportedly killed while several others received various degrees of injuries. Most of the survivors, according to available information, fled into the creeks and mangrove forests to take refuge. One Mr Udo Ini Morris Thompson was said to have been kidnapped by the rampaging soldiers.

It was gathered that the communities were destroyed as a retaliation to the recent killing of 14 soldiers by militants at Krakrama, near the cawthrone channel, Rivers State few weeks ago. The Tombia communities raided were said to be the hideout of the militants who killed the soldiers.

The action of the military against the communities which affected innocent poor villagers, is a clear violation of article 5, 6 & 7 of the African Charter on People and Human Rights to which Nigeria is a signatory.