

N/Delta: Ijaw leaders drag FG to UN

DENNIS NAKU, Yenagoa

IJAW leaders at home and in Diaspora, including women of the Ijaw Ethnic Nationality yesterday resolved to petition the United Nations for the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to institute a Commission of Inquiry into the killings and destruction done to Ijaw communities in Warri South local government area, Delta State by operatives of the Joint Military Taskforce (JTF).

The elders, who also accused President Umaru Yar'Adua of perpetrating genocide in the oil rich region, called on the international community to prevail on the Federal Government to order a ceasefire and initiate total rebuilding of communities destroyed by such invasion.

Rising from an emergency close door meeting, in Government House, in Yenagoa attended by prominent Ijaw

leaders including Chief Edwin Clark and the President of the Ijaw National Congress (INC), Dr. Atuboyedia Obianime, the leaders said their decision to take their case before the international community was borne out of the refusal of the President to heed to pleas and words of reasoning.

In a 13-point communiqué issued at the end of the meeting and made available to newsmen in Yenagoa, Chief Clarke and Dr. Obianime stated that the resolutions taken by the Ijaw nation was a motivating factor for action include the unprovoked attack on about 12 communities in Delta State which amount to genocide.

The statement said as a member of international community of nations and a highly-respected country in peace keeping operations, the actions of the Nigerian military through the order of the President demands international condemnation.