

# Ambush: We killed 10 soldiers –MEND

DENNIS NAKU, Port Harcourt

**M**OVEMENT for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), yesterday, claimed it ambushed a military convoy in Delta state, killing 10 soldiers, injuring 18 while many casualties were recorded, just as it ordered its fighters to carry out increased attacks on oil installations in the Niger Delta as well as take more hostages.

But, in a swift reaction, the Joint Military Taskforce, code named Operation Restore Hope in Niger Delta, described the claims of the militant group as "a pack of lies."

MEND in an electronic mail signed by its spokesman, Jomo Gbomo, said it attacked no fewer than 14 military gunboats heading to one of its camps at Ayakoromo in Delta about 0300hrs on Thursday.

The militant group, acting on information it received from the General Hospital, Warri, in Delta state, said about 10 soldiers were brought in dead, and 18 others seriously injured after the attack.

The group claimed its fighters saw an undisclosed number of soldiers drowned during the attack.

MEND also said its fighter's recovered weapons, which included Browning machine guns, R.P.G Launchers, General Purpose Machine Guns, assault rifles and ammunition and warned more attacks on the oil industry.

The statement reads, "At about 0300hrs, on Thursday, Nov 18, 2010, our units in Delta state in the Niger Delta, received intelligence report of the movement of 14 gunboats of the Nigerian military heading towards one of our camps in Delta state.

"Our units ambushed the convoy of Nigerian army gunboats at

## •It's a pack of lies –JTF

Ayakoromo in Delta state. This convoy was literally decimated.

"Reports reaching us from the General Hospital, Warri, in Delta state, indicate that 10 soldiers were brought in dead and 18 seriously injured. A large number of Nigerian army soldiers were reported by our fighters to have drowned.

But spokesman of the JTF, Lt Col. Timothy Antigha, told *Saturday Champion* that the Nigerian military does not take uncalculated risks, expressing their determination to crackdown on all militants' strongholds

## Saka seeks Muslims Christian unity

EBENEZER EDOHASIM

**P**ROPHET (Dr.) Samson Saka has said that unless Muslims and Christians see themselves as worshippers of one God, religious crisis will be difficult to curtail.

Prophet Saka, founder/general overseer of Oketude Ministry, who made this assertion while preaching at a post Ed-el-Kabir get-together at his ministry's auditorium in Lagos, said Christians and Muslims should tolerate each other and know that denomination cannot save anyone on the last day.

"God is a spirit, and those who worship him should worship him in spirit and in truth. He created all human beings equal, including the religions that pay homage to him. So let no religion claim superiority over another because that is not how God wanted it."

He condemned preachers who pass judgment on other's religion, saying some of them make inflammatory statements, which makes their

in the region.

He said MEND is employing publicity stunt to sustain its relevance. The JTF spokesman said the task force operation in the region would continue until criminality is stamped out.

"MEND's claims are not true; we do not take uncalculated risks. The whole story is a pack of lies and I want to say that they have been putting such lies together to sustain their relevance.

"We are determined to sustain this operation until we bring this trend of criminality to its knees. If you check the papers today (yesterday), you will see that both within and outside the country, everybody is condemning these criminals," Lt.Col. Antigha said.

members to hate other denominations and see them as being inferior to them, hence, the bloody religious crisis that we witness from time to time.

Prophet Saka urged governments at all levels to take understanding between the two major religious sect in the country by creating more avenue where religious leaders could meet regularly to appraise situation in the country and advise government accordingly on how to avert religious crisis.

Regretting the senseless killing of innocent people and the destruction of lives and properties, he requested that other clerics should visit his ministry to see religious harmony in action.

"My ministry, Oketude Ministry, is a unique ministry with headquarters in Ogudu, Lagos. Since 1989, I have been ensuring religious harmony by bringing Christians and Muslims to worship together under one roof. We read both the Holy Bible and the Koran and there is no friction whatsoever."

Continuing, Prophet Saka said he needs assistance from governments to continue his work and mission as a