

Bayelsa community protests, accuses soldiers of killing 3 indigenes

From Bassey Willie, Yenagoa

The people of Igbomatoru Community in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State have protested the alleged killings of three indigenes of the community by security operatives attached to Nigeria Agip Oil Company (NAOC) surveillance contractors.

The community has also called on the state government to order the immediate withdrawal of soldiers allegedly stationed in a houseboat in the community.

The leadership of the community, in a statement issued yesterday, said the continued presence of soldiers in the community was causing panic as

indigenes and inhabitants had been living in constant fear and nervous shock.

The statement was signed by the acting paramount ruler of the community, Chief Goodluck Alagodei; chairman of Community Development Committee, Ebipamunu Charles; the vice chairman, Goodnews Otobo; secretary, Justice Pronto, and compound chiefs in the area.

They lamented that the community, since June 22, had been experiencing unprovoked invasion and attacks by military men allegedly attached to a surveillance security company contractor to NAOC.

“The continued presence of the military men has made 12 corps

members serving in the Igbomatoru community leave the community leaving only three corps members who will most likely leave the community.

“The corps members were the ones doing 90% of the teaching in the schools and with their leaving, the educational system in Igbomatoru will collapse.”

When contacted, the police spokesman in Bayelsa State, SP Asinim Butswat, said no police officer was attached to Agip facilities in the state.

Also, the spokesperson of Eni, the parent body of the NAOC, promised to get back but had yet to do so as of the time of filing this report.