

# MOSOP condemns killing of Ogoni youths

From Kelvin Ebiri, Port Harcourt

**T**HE Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) has slammed the Police for allegedly killing two Ogoni youths opposed to a planned relocation of a military cantonment in Zor-Sogho village, Rivers State

MOSOP spokesperson, Bariara Kpalap, said government must respect Article 30 (i) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which states that "military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest or otherwise freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned."

Kpalap, who accused the Police of shooting Mr. Goteh Keenam and Mr. Dambani to death, said the incident engendered a provoked spontaneous reaction that culminated in the lynching of Mr.

**We have heard from all of the village witnesses that the suspected youths for which the police came did not resist arrest and there was no immediate threat to the safety of any of the mobile policemen. The interviews showed clearly that the murdered youths were shot dead without any good reason**

Job Nkpai, who allegedly invited the policemen.

He explained that some chiefs and elites in the village were accused of promoting the planned sale of a large parcel of their farmlands for military cantonment relocation project without the "free, prior and informed consent of the people."

Kpalap said about two weeks ago, the villagers had spotted surveyors attempting to survey the controversial farmlands without any consultation and approval of the people and stopped the job.

Afterwards, a communal meeting was conveyed and

the people flayed some chiefs and other community leaders, including Nkpai, who they accused of compromising.

Nkpai was alleged to have reported to the police, "albeit spuriously," that his life was being threatened by some youths in Zor-Sogho who were opposed to the planned military base.

And based on this, some mobile policemen were deployed to the village to effect the arrest of those who Nkpai allegedly threatened his life over the disputed project. According to Kpalap, it was in the bid to effect the forceful arrest that the police shot dead Messrs. Keenam and Dambani.

Kpalap added: "We have heard from all of the village witnesses that the suspected youths for which the police came did not resist arrest and there was no immediate threat to the safety of any of the mobile policemen. The interviews showed clearly that the murdered youths were shot dead without any good reason."

But when contacted at about 2:01p.m. the Police Public Relations Officer, Ben Ugwegbulam, told *The Guardian* that he was still trying to gather facts surrounding the incident and that he would call back.

## CNPP

**all know that they owe to perform in their position of looking after the welfare of the people through make in the various**

faulted the Federal Government for imposing the new wage on the states without considering how they would meet the huge salary payment with their current allocations.

Ajao wrote: "The numerical

strengths of civil servants in the states of the federation are not the same with their federal counterparts while the running cost also differs. There must be adjustment or a new allocation formula to compensate for this. Government should as much as possible avert any issue that could cause labour unrest, which we think may jeopardise our democratic progress and discourage any programme that will encourage the states going a borrowing."