

Ateke Tom’s kinsmen threaten to avenge military raid on his palace

By Kelvin Ebiri, Port
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Ateke Tom



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Imminent conflicts looms in Rivers State as kinsmen of the traditional ruler of of Okochiri, Ateke Tom, have warned that the military and Police raid on his palace that



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claimed one life would not go unavenged.

They have also called on President Muhammadu Buhari to call the military to order to avoid plunging the state and the Niger Delta into crisis that would have adverse impact on the country.

This view was expressed as hundreds of women, youths and chiefs took to the streets of Okrika to protest the invasion of Tom's palace on Thursday.

The chief of staff of the palace, Tamuno Akalokpo, said people were still in shock over the unprovoked attack that led to the death of one John Ogbu and the arrest of the monarch's guest by soldiers drawn from 6 Division headquarters of the Nigeria Army in Port Harcourt.

He said they were not happy over the desecration of the monarch's palace and the kingdom by the soldiers, adding: "We want President Muhammadu Buhari to know about this and call the Army to order. We, the Okrikans, can no longer tolerate this any more. We are calling on the federal government to intervene and call for a dialogue to pay for damages done to us and our king in the attack."

He called for all the masterminds of the raid to be brought to book, warning: "Otherwise, we will not accept and if it is politically motivated, we will after the elections, visit the houses and communities of all the politicians involved in this. For disturbing the peace of our community without any offence, we will also visit theirs."

"They sent the military to visit us, we do not have guns, but we too will carry sticks and stones to visit their communities."

Chairman of Okochiri Council of Chiefs, Jackson Adoki, warned that if the government does not intervene in the matter, the community would no longer collaborate with the Army and Police, noting that if the soldiers intended to scare people from coming out to vote in today's elections, they had failed, as there would be massive voter participation in the entire Okrika.

Similarly, Mrs. Bether Godwin decried the attack on king Tom, insisting that his stool deserves respect