

# Why Soldiers Were Killed In Degema – *Militants*

By Odudu Okpongete  
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT,  
Port Harcourt

A militant group in the Niger Delta has explained the motive behind last week's abduction and killing of four soldiers in Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Spokesperson for the Coalition of Militant Action in the Niger Delta, Alaye Teme, said in a statement

posted online that the action was in retaliation for last Wednesday's killing of Ijaw youths by men of the joint military task force.

Naval personnel reportedly killed two militants along the Cawthorne Channel in the Kalabari axis on Wednesday.

"We wish to inform you all that the four soldiers who were taken out in the Degema area of Rivers State

were attacked in response to the cold-blooded killing of some youths of Ijaw stock in the Cawthorne Channel area by men of the security forces of the Nigerian state.

"We are still haunting for other members of the Joint Task Force, who perpetrated that dastard act. We will also take them out in cold blood," the militants said.

According to the statement, the killings had

nothing to do with the elections but an attempt by the military "to undermine the potency of those who today lead the agitation for a liberated Niger Delta."

The militants claimed they have the names of the JTF team members that shot the Ijaw youths.

"No one will be spared in this onslaught. No one will be forgiven. You will hear more in the next few days," the group added.