

News

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Uduaghan's son can
contest election in
2015 – Aginighan

By Sunday Apah
Special Correspondent, Ughelli

FORMER Acting Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Pastor Power Aginighan, has stated that zoning of elective offices of president, governors and local government council chairmen is alien to the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, as amended.

Aginighan, who sought nomination for the governorship ticket of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Delta State in the build-up to the 2007 general elections stated this while fielding questions from journalists at the weekend shortly after attending the funeral service of Nigeria's first female ambassador, Her Excellency, Princess (Mrs.) Elizabeth

JTF: Army boss petitioned over alleged extra-judicial killing

By Harris-Onon Emmanuel,
Correspondent, Warri

HUMAN rights activists have urged the Chief of Army Staff to probe the alleged extra-judicial killing of six indigenes of Niger Delta by the Joint Task Force (JTF), last week under questionable circumstances.

No fewer than six persons suspected to be sea pirates were reportedly shot and killed by the military task force.

A petition signed by Omemirom Ogedegbe and Ozobo Austin, yesterday in Warri, Delta State, and made available to newsmen, urged the army high command to

unravel the "mystery behind the massacre of the six persons, known to be gentlemen."

Ogedegbe, a lawyer, said a protest letter has been sent to the Chief of Army Staff "to commence investigation with a view to court martial all the officers and soldiers involved in the extrajudicial massacre of the suspects," adding, "If within seven days, the process was not commenced, we will have no other option than to go to court."

According to him, information at his disposal showed that the six persons alleged to have been killed during a crossfire with JTF never had

any gun duel with the task force, but were only arrested by soldiers, who accused them of piracy, only to eliminate them later.

"It was not the duty of the JTF to arrest, prosecute, and execute judgement on the suspects, who were presumed innocent of whatever crime they were nabbed for. The military men acted in bad faith by eliminating fellow Nigerians who did not at any time committed any crime that would warrant being massacred," he said.

He, however maintained that only the judiciary is constitutionally empowered to

determine the culpability of the suspects in the crime they were alleged to have committed by JTF, and the decision of the task force to kill them without charging them to court to prove its case was unacceptable.

For his part, Ozobo, National President, Ijaw People Development Initiative (IPDI), also said that the deceased persons were returning from a burial ceremony when they were accosted and arrested on the waterways by soldiers, who took them to Agge, and later shot them dead after telling villagers that they were taking them to Warri.



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