

## One shot dead in land dispute

**From Isaac Ombe, Yenagoa**

A YOUNG man has been allegedly shot dead in Okodia/Zarama, Yenagoa Local Government Area, Bayelsa State by soldiers of the Joint Task Force (JTF) over a land dispute.

Nigeria Agip Oil Company (NAOC) pipeline passes through the land.

Candy, 21, a native of Ayamabete community, was killed in an attempt by soldiers to drive protesting youths out of the disputed land.

Trouble began on Wednesday afternoon when youths from Adumani clan began clearing the disputed land. They were said to have enjoyed military protection.

An eyewitness said as they were clearing the land, youths from the neighbouring Ayamabete community stormed the place.

In an attempt to ward off the invading Ayamabete youths, the soldiers fired a gun shot, which hit Candy.

His death, it was learnt, has heightened tension in the area as Ayamabete youths have vowed to avenge it.

Residents are said to have begun relocating to Yenagoa and other communities.

JTF Commander Lt.-Col. Ikana Efik confirmed the incident, but he denied knowledge of any death.

"I am not aware of anyone killed by my men. Why would the JTF want to shoot anybody dead? I heard that Okodia people are having problem with one another over Agip pipeline and I called the Commissioner of Police to confirm what was happening," said Lt.-Col. Efik, adding: "I am going to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Abayomi Akerele, to discuss other steps."