

## Gang members surrender arms in Kokori

The hope for peace has brightened in troubled Kokori community in Ethiopia East Local Government Area of Delta State.

Members of the Liberation Movement of the Urhobo People, a militant group led by Kelvin Ibruvwe, have “surrendered”.

This is coming two weeks after five persons, including four gang members, were killed in a clash with Joint Task Force (JTF) troops.

A source said: “The gang, through an unidentified coordinator, approached some chiefs and elders in Kokori community that they want to embrace peace.

“A peace initiative committee was set up and held a meeting with the representatives of the gang.

“The committee chairman thereafter visited them and they assured the committee of their loyalty.”

“But barely few hours after the truce, a faction of the gang opposed to the peace deal invaded Kokori and shot sporadically into the air for several hours.

“The timely intervention of the committee chairman and the collaboration of other militants loyal to the peace deal brought the situation under control. The rebel militants were chased out.”

Two rifles and nine rounds of ammunitions were recovered.

Peace has eluded Kokori community since last September, when Ibruvwe and some of his followers issued a 30-day ultimatum to the Federal Government to develop Urhobo community.

The ultimatum was seen as a desperate move by the gang members to seek amnesty after security operatives launched a manhunt for them.

Ibruvwe was arrested in Port Harcourt on September 25, last year, by security operatives and is facing trial in Abuja.

A JTF source said the Task Force was not swayed by the latest stance, stressing that it could be a ploy to catch the JTF off guard.

“We are not impressed at all because, even as I am talking to you, they are still sending threat messages.

“Besides, they returned only two dane guns and nine rounds of ammunition.”