

## Diri confirms death of 20 youths in Igbomotoru



Governor Douye Diri

Simon Utebor April 18, 2024



This is an aftermath of the military invasion of the community in search of suspected killers of 17 soldiers in Okuama, Delta State, on March 14.

Diri's visit comes one month after the military invaded the riverine community on March 17.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the slain soldiers.

Addressing residents at Igbomotoru Town Hall, Diri condemned the killing of the soldiers. He regretted that what happened in Delta State was being felt by the people.

Bayelsa State Governor Douye Diri yesterday confirmed the death of 20 youths of Igbomotoru community in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of the state. He urged the military authorities to continue with investigation to unveil the killers and their sponsors, adding that all those involved must be brought to book to face the full wrath of the law.

Governor Diri warned the youths that the era of militancy in Ijaw land was over, adding that what is now obtainable is intellectual engagement.

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He was accompanied by the Commanding Officer 16 Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Brig.-Gen. Oluremi Obolo, Secretary to the State Government Prof. Nibofa Ayawei, Ambassador Boladei Igali and other government officials.

Diri, who was making his first public statement after the incident, said: "I have come to meet with you that enough is enough. In every season there is a time for everything. The era of militancy is over and this is the era of intellectual engagement; this is what your government is set to do and your government has been doing.

"Ijaw are very intelligent people, we can compete with anybody anywhere in the world, and we should not be seen as cannon fodder. This is a warning to all of those who are still cannon fodder to have a rethink. Your government is establishing schools, particularly schools with skills acquisition, science and technical colleges even in empowering programmes and we want our youths to key into it and drop your guns.