

# Soldiers allegedly kill man who came to rescue wife in A/Ibom

Iniobong Ekponta | Uyo

**F**EAR has enveloped Utaewa, a coastal community in Ikot-Abasi Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State following the alleged killing of a cement dealer, Otobong Jumbo, by soldiers on duty at a beach. *Nigerian Tribune* learnt that Jumbo, 46, died last Tuesday night at a medical facility, following several bruises he allegedly sustained from gun butts used in hitting him on the head by the soldiers. It was gathered that trouble

started when one of Jumbo's wives, Enefiok went to the beach at night to defecate and was said to have strayed into the zone manned by the soldiers.

An argument broke out between the woman and one of the soldiers, who reportedly pointed a torchlight on her face.

In the ensuing exchange of words between her and the soldier, the soldier was said to have pushed her into the river but she managed to come out.

It was further learnt that when the man arrived at

the scene, after she was called by the wife, the soldiers reportedly hit him with the gun butts until he fell down and became unconscious.

He was said to have been pushed into the river afterwards.

"They threaten to shoot anyone who comes in to rescue him from the river," a fisherman, who would not want his name in print, told journalists.

Narrating her ordeal on Sunday, Mrs Jumbo, said: "I went to the beach on Tuesday night to ease myself. A

soldier on duty there came and pointed a torchlight in my face, and when I complained, he drew closer to where I was and pushed me into the river, but I managed to swim out.

"I don't know what my husband said that got them angry, but what I know is that they have personal issues with my husband.

"All of us in this community have severally complained about the excesses of the soldiers who extort money from us, intimidate and harass us, so my husband has been having issues with them in the

course of moving his goods across the river to Opobo.

"When my husband came, the soldiers hit him with gun butts until he became unconscious. They pushed him into the river and threaten to shoot anyone that would come to his rescue.

"He was taken first to Foundation Clinic, and then Waterside Clinic and later to Navy Clinic where he died," she lamented.

However, spokesman, 2nd Brigade, Nigeria Army, Major Bashir Jajira, when contacted, confirmed the incident, but said that the deceased met

his death because he was drunk.

He said: "Yes I can confirm that something like that happened on that day. A woman came to the beach at an abnormal time to defecate. There is a time we allow for normal activities at the beach.

"The husband went to the beach very drunk and could not control himself.

When the soldiers securing the place shouted to know who it could be, he ran and fell into the river, and before he was rescued he was found to be dead."

Youths on rampage block