

Soldiers invade Bayelsa community over killing of two military personnel

·We're searching for missing soldier —Nigerian Army ·IYC vows to partner military to fish out their killers

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one other missing and carted away their rifles.

Explaining further, he said after the incident, stern-looking soldiers, on Tuesday morning invaded the community, burning houses as villagers scampered for safety.

"When the soldiers entered our community, they directed us to leave because they were going to raze the houses and that anybody that fails to comply with directive would be killed.

"Before some of us left the community, I saw the building of our paramount ruler on fire. Even my family house

was razed. As I speak with you, we are suffering for a crime we did not commit," he said.

When contacted, spokesman of the 16 Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Major Danjuma Jonah, confirmed the death of two of its personnel, but denied razing houses in the community.

"Our men did not burn down houses in Azagbene community. We are only combing the community and neighbouring towns in search of one soldier that is missing as a result of the attack that led to the death of

two soldiers.

"And we are carrying out the search for the missing soldier in conjunction with leaders of the community."

Meanwhile, the zonal leadership of Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) has promised to partner the Nigerian Army in fishing out the killers of two military personnel on Monday night, in Azagbene community in Ekeromor Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

IYC, in a statement by its spokesman, Korubo Kockman, also condemned, in strong terms, the killing of two soldiers of the 16 Bri-

gade of the Nigeria Army, who were posted to secure a crude oil facility in the area before armed men suspected militants, struck.

According to Kockman, the dastardly act of the hoodlums had resulted in an attack on Azagbene community by the army, leading to destruction of properties belonging to innocent indigenes of the community.

Part of the statement read: "This ugly development has become great source of worry and concern to the state and Ijaw Youth Council in the zone as the home and

Jerusalem of the entire Ijaw nation.

"The zonal chairman, Comrade Kennedy Olorogun, having condemned the barbaric act, equally called on the Nigerian Army to be civil in its action, mostly in the area of destruction of lives and property of the innocent Azagbene people, but go after the culprits.

"We assure the Nigerian Army to work in synergy with them and other security agencies in the state to ensure perpetrators of these violence and heinous crimes are brought to justice."

MEN of the 16 Brigade of the Nigerian Army, on Tuesday, allegedly invaded Azagbene community in Bayelsa State in search of suspected militants who killed two soldiers guarding a crude oil facility in the area. According to a community source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the well-armed suspected militants, who came in a speed boat, struck on Monday night, leaving two soldiers dead,