

Six persons died during military's invasion of Benue communities, says govt

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BARELY 24 hours after the 12 military personnel killed by bandits in Benue State were buried in Makurdi, the state government has confirmed that local militias actually killed the soldiers who were maintaining peace in the troubled Konshisha and Oju local government areas of the state.

However, to avoid com-

plicating the situation, the state government has restrained stakeholders from making inflammatory statements about the incident.

These and others were the resolutions of the state security council meeting held at the Government House, Makurdi, on Tuesday.

The state governor, Dr Samuel Ortom, who read the resolutions, said the council condemned the killing of

the 12 soldiers, just as he expressed condolences to President Muhammadu Buhari, the Chief of Army Staff and families of the officer and soldiers killed.

The council revealed that six persons, including two militia members, died during the search for the missing soldiers.

Ortom said the meeting tasked traditional rulers and other stakeholders to ensure that all the weapons taken

from the murdered soldiers were returned unconditionally, adding that as soon as the arms were returned, the State Security Council would review the situation.

To end the lingering crisis between Oju and Konshisha, the governor said the council resolved that the demarcation of the boundary between the two local government areas be carried out as soon as possible.