

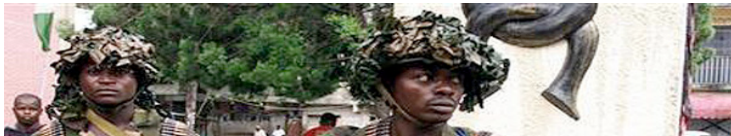
Crime, General NEWS

JTF Still Killing Ogoni Youths

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CONTROVERSIES now trailed the killing of an Ogoni youth who died during a confrontation with men of the Joint Task Force



(JTF) in B-Dere community, Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State.

While the spokesperson of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), in a statement released by its press officer, Sunny Zorvah, said the victim, Bariara Vurasi Lemon, was killed by the JTF, the security outfit denied the allegation.

In a telephone chat with the Nigerian Tribune on Wednesday, the spokesman of the JTF, Lieutenant-Colonel Timothy Antigha, said though his men had a confrontation with a group of hoodlums “who had been struggling to take over Shell’s well head for bunkering activities,” available facts contradicted MOSOP’s claims

MOSOP, in its statement, identified Lemon to be “among a group of community youths engaged at the project site by the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) workers” and was killed by “soldiers attached to some members of staff of SPDC.”

According to the statement, Lemon was engaged by the SPDC personnel working in the area to help in the sharing of food to others.

Things went wrong, according to the statement, when a disagreement ensued on food sharing formula, a situation which attracted the attention of the soldiers and the eventual killing of Lemon.

But, the JTF, reacting to MOSOP’s claim, through his spokesman, said his men did not confront youths sharing food, but a hoard of hoodlums who were attempting to take over the well head by force.

He said the bullet that killed Lemon was not fired by any of the men attached to the JTF, alleging that it was suspected that one of the youth was armed and must have fired the shot that killed Lemon from the back.

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