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Federal troops razed 20 communities in Rivers

By Sola Adebayo, Warri

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The President of the Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force, Alhaji Mujarhedeem Asari-Dokubo, on Monday, alleged that 20 communities had been razed by the federal troops in the coastal Kalabari communities in Rivers State from Saturday to Monday.



Alhaji Mujarhedeem Asari-Dokubo

Asari-Dokubo, who said this during an interview with our correspondent in Warri, Delta State, also said that many persons were killed and injured by the troops of the Joint Task Force in the Niger Delta during the period.

He also said that the soldiers were not attacking militants as the authorities of JTF claimed but defenceless and innocent citizens of the local communities.

Asari-Dokubo, who hails from the coastal Kalabari area where fresh hostilities broke out between his kinsmen and the security operatives on Saturday, said the attack was unprovoked.

He said, "For me the attack was unprovoked. The actors are people that have problems with me in the area but it does not matter. I am a Kalabari man, I cannot fold my hands, from Saturday to today over 20 communities have been destroyed by the soldiers who did not even enter the camps of these people they are supposed to fight."

"Women, children and aged were murdered in cold-blood, as Elem, Tombia, Elem Bekina-Ama, Elem Ifoko 1,2 and 3, Dabara, Mbiama, Elem Abalama, Sigi Okolo, Owu-Ogono, Faribo-Kiri, Okomabio, Captain Kari and Charles Kari, were utterly razed.

"They never went to the camps of these people they said they are looking for. They committed pogrom against our people, innocent fishermen, Andonis, Ijaw people, Ibiobios, and fishermen on that river were killed in the name of militancy.

"The casualty figure is not clear but it is very high. The whole area is cordoned off from new Calabar River, there have been aerial and land bombardment going on continuously against innocent and defenceless people, even till now (Monday afternoon).

"Whatever the offence these people must have committed, they are innocent until they are proven guilty in a court of competent jurisdiction to have committed a crime.

"Even if you find a man with a gun, he is not a criminal until the court pronounces that he is guilty of a crime.

"So many people have been displaced. Majority of these people did not belong to the group, even if they do, it is morally wrong in a democratic society for the government to unleash that quantum of terror against the citizens it is supposed to protect."

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