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Three feared killed in Ogoni over cantonment's location

By Chukwudi Akasike

Tuesday, 14 Jun 2011

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NO fewer than three persons have lost their lives over the controversy trailing the citing of military cantonment in Ogoni axis of Rivers State.

The Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People had, in a statement signed by its Information Officer, Mr. Bari-ara Kpalap, and sent to newsmen on Monday, alleged that two of the deceased were killed by some riot policemen.

The riot policemen were said to have been sent to arrest some of those who were against the citing of the military base in the area.

MOSOP identified two of the victims as Goteh Keenam and Dambani while Job Nkpai, who was said to have invited the police, was killed by a mob.

Kpalap disclosed that an eyewitness, who was at the scene in Zor-Sogho, Khana Local Government Area, where Keenam and Dambani were killed, had declared that the killing of the youths was unprovoked.

He called on the police to ensure that the security operatives behind the murder of the two Ogoni sons were brought to book.

MOSOP statement read, "We have heard from all of the village witnesses that the suspected youths for which the police came did not resist arrest and there was no the statement read, immediate threat to the safety of any of the mobile policemen.

"The interviews showed clearly that the murdered youths were shot dead without any good reason as they were not part of those accused by Mr. Nkpai to have threatened his life.

"Besides, the villagers are unanimous in insisting that the police's approach betrayed extreme callousness and insensitivity.

"The fact that the security operatives always get away with extra-judicial executions is a function of the culture of impunity. In this case, there must be consequence to serve as deterrent."

MOSOP, however, faulted the Federal Government's decision to cite a military cantonment in Zor-Sogho and wondered why government did not bring life-supporting projects.

The statement read, "We are especially worried that while vital and sustainable development projects are sited in other communities in the state, Ogoni appears to be only qualified for a proposed military cantonment, which benefit is doubtful."

"We would like to warn that Ogoni does not have the land that can accommodate such gigantic project, and as such government should look elsewhere to actualize its dream.

"We do not believe that the era of slave-master relationship exists and as such our interest must count."

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Contacted at about 3.50pm, the State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ben Ugwuegbulam, told THE PUNCH that he was working on a response to the matter.

He, however, promised to send the response of the police command to journalists as soon as he was done on the matter.

Comments :

- This is wise decision. It will strengthen the growing security in the area. GEJ kudos, live is coming up more beautifully to the deprived.

Posted by: Musa A.Y , on Tuesday, June 14, 2011

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- @Ogah, have you not heard that during the genocide a lot of Ogini, Ibibio & Anang people perished at the hands the same Nigerian vandal forces? The dilapidation of our soil is not confined to Igboland alone, you do it to our cousins too. When Obasanjo's vandal army destroyed Odi did they give a damn that Odi is not in Igboland proper? When the Boko Haram attacks Easterners do they differentiate between an Igbo or Ogoni?

Posted by: Otile , on Tuesday, June 14, 2011

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- the Ogoni are always ready for najai govt. any time any day. they fight with (biro pen and knowledge) they will always deficit nigeria any yr. any month.

Posted by: u & me , on Tuesday, June 14, 2011

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