

ects Clarks' intervention

this stage, I cannot see the role of the elder statesmen."

The Clarks' counsel, Olukayode Ajulo, had told the court that his clients wanted to be joined as parties in the suit to enable them to intervene in the matter and settle it amicably, failure of which he said his clients feared the Ibrus' name could be brought public shame.

Ajulo added that as cousins to the Ibrus, the brothers were

physically present in court to correct some impression made against them at the last adjourned date.

Maiden's counsel, Dr. Tunji Braithwaite, had objected to the Clarks' application for joinder.

He said, "I am at loss at their statements, and wonder under what rules or law or procedures of which the counsel is making his

application. I urge the court to dismiss it."

On his part, the respondent's counsel, Onyebuchi Aniakor, said Ajulo had earlier intimated him on the coming of the Clarks but said he had in reply told him that the development would not affect the already scheduled business of the court.

The matter was adjourned till May 11 for ruling on the application.

Delta: Army destroys 500 illegal refineries, kills two

**Emmanuel Addeh,
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FOR several hours on Thursday, troops from the Joint Task Force, Effurun, Delta State, embarked upon the destruction of over 500 illegal refineries in the creeks of the Niger Delta.

The soldiers drawn from 3 Battalion, Effurun, also felled two members of a robbery gang suspected to have terrorised residents of Ovorie in Ethiope East council in the early hours of the day.

The illegal refining plants were discovered in Mango village and Gbekebor waterways

in Burutu council area of Delta, in an operation carried out by soldiers in military gunboats.

Also destroyed were a speedboat abandoned by the oil thieves, high voltage welding machines, pipelines laid by the oil thieves and other cutting instruments.

The army set fire to thousands of litres of diesel kept underground as well as drums and tanks.

Also destroyed were foams, bed spreads, assorted drinks, phones, food and makeshift house occupied by the youth, said to be backed by some "powerful forces".

Passport photographs, ostensibly compiled by

the oil thieves for the registration of their members and photocopies of safety pamphlets, titled "Shell's life-saving rules" were also recovered on the sites.

The Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Ifeanyi Otu, who led the operations described those behind the illicit trade as economic saboteurs.

He lamented the environmental degradation caused by their action and called on the perpetrators to take to other legitimate business.

The dead robbers were in a pool of blood and had charms and amulets tied round their bodies.