

Four persons were killed during military raid – Rivers community

Published October 7, 2020



Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

The people of Asarama community in the Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State have alleged that they lost four persons, including two children, during a military raid in the area last weekend.

While recalling that soldiers had previously been deployed in the area since a notorious criminal known as ‘Small Witch’ was killed in March this year, the community members said they don’t know the reason for the fresh invasion by the operatives who they said were accompanied by local vigilantes.

Alleging that the soldiers shot indiscriminately and destroyed buildings, they called on the military to exercise caution so that innocent persons would not be affected.

A resident of the community, Lemuel Otuikor, who spoke on Nigeria Info (92.3) news in Port Harcourt on Tuesday, monitored by our correspondent, said the soldiers had been raiding three communities in the area since Saturday, arresting, brutalising people and destroying property.

He said, “On Saturday, they went to Ibot-Ikolo Asarama, they went to Asarama-toru; they went to Amaotugbo and started shooting sporadically, burn engines and some houses.

“On Sunday, from 6am, they invaded the same areas and operated till after 4pm. Two old persons are on the ground now lying lifeless. Two children died in course of trying to swim across the creeks.”

Also speaking, a stakeholder in the community, Mark Anemisa, called for the unconditional release of those arrested between last Saturday and Tuesday, even as he alleged that they were asked to part with some money before their folks would be released.

Efforts to get reaction from the spokesman for the 6 Division, Nigeria Army, Charles Ekeocha, proved abortive, as he neither answered calls put across by our correspondent nor replied a text message sent to his mobile phone.

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