

Ugborodo crisis: 22 dead bodies recovered, over N250m property destroyed

By SEYE OJO

Twenty two dead bodies have been purportedly recovered after the invasion of Ugborodo, a community in Warri South-West Local Government Area of Delta State and property worth over N250million were allegedly destroyed last weekend.

This was disclosed at a press conference held in Lagos and addressed by the elders of the community led by a three-time commissioner in the state, Dr. Alex Ideh, yesterday.

The invasion of Ugborodo community, according to Udeh, commenced on January 4, 2014 and ended the following day. He said the

house of the spiritual head of Ugborodo, the Olaja-Orori, High Priest Benson Dube Omadeli, was among the destroyed property.

He also alleged that: "Six Naval gunboats arrived at the waters of Ugborodo with heavily armed Naval personnel. In tow was an armada of six private local speed boats carrying young men with arms.

"Defenceless Ugborodo people including women, old men and children stood by the seashore watching the show of force amazement.

"By Sunday, January 5, 2014, the five Naval boats moved out of sight, leaving only one huge Naval boat and six private local boats, including the red

speed boat belonging to (names withheld), carrying armed youths. Suddenly, the five boats led by a red boat charged at the Ugborodo shoreline, opening fire at the defenceless women, children and aged people.

"People scampered for safety and many fell, dead and wounded. In the process, they left deaths and destruction in their trail. Within minutes the town had been overrun. All these took place with the one remaining Naval gunboat watching. The Ugborodo people were helpless. As we made calls, we could hear the shots at the background."

But Ideh swiftly said the Naval gunboat did not take part in the shooting but was only watching as he lament-

ed that many people were still missing in the community as at yesterday.

Also, former Director General of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Mr. Temisan Omatseye, a native of Ugborodo, who was at the press conference, said he made a telephone call to the authorities of Nigerian Navy. The response he got, he said, was that it was an insinuation that Naval gunboats invaded the community.

Ideh stated that the crises in the community predated the Federal Government proposed Ogidigben EPZ USD16billion Gas Project that would occupy 2,700 hectares of land in the community.

Wike wants to purchase judgment against 2014 budget, Amaechi raises alarm