

...for continuation of their trial.

10 feared dead

From **Femi Folaranmi**,
Yenagoa

THREE soldiers attached to the military joint task force, Operation Delta Save (ODS) have been feared killed in a fierce gun battle between militants and the military at Toru-Ndoro community in Ekeremor Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Governor Seriake Dickson, after a meeting with top security chiefs in the state and the military high command, had given the nod to the military to move into Toru-Ndoro and rid it of militants with strong link to an

...to fight criminals to a standstill in the new year.

"We are not going to rest on our oars," he said.

10 feared dead in military, militia gun battle in Bayelsa

ex-militant leader terrorising the community, after a security operative was beheaded and his severed head paraded in the community.

Investigations showed that the military had moved in and were combing the community, adjoining communities and the creeks for the hoodlums when the militants launched an attack on them.

Three servicemen, two from the Navy and one from the Army, were reportedly hit with bullets, while seven of the militants were said to have been killed, with several others sustaining bullet wounds and are now in hiding

from the military combing the area.

Findings indicated that the leadership of the ODS, irked by the development, especially the attack on soldiers, has directed that the hoodlums be fished out and brought to book as the military would not condone the killing of soldiers by hoodlums.

A source within the ODS said the cries of molestation and victimisation against the military in the ongoing operation were misplaced as the military would not abdicate its responsibilities and allow a reign of hoodlums that killed soldiers

"Any group of people claiming that

...told newsmen that NANS decided to embark on the exercise to alleviate the sufferings of Nigerians caused by what he described as artificial scarcity of petrol.

her hometown, with bad. Do they want to wait eight months in a L told to trek home?"

the military is molesting people is not being fair. Any house or people that accommodate people that killed soldiers have lost their right to complain because they are accomplices in the killing of soldiers," he said.

Meanwhile, the Bayelsa State government has explained that the killing of the security operative took place in Edegbene community in Burutu Local Government Area of Delta State.

A statement signed by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Security Matters, Dr. Boma Spero-Jack, said Dickson "condemned the crude, barbaric and reprehensible act of the parading same

in Toru-Ndoro Local Government Area of Bayelsa State."

Spero-Jack found the act of the security operative and the killing of soldiers by hoodlums to be a return to the state of anarchy and a violation of the rule of law.

The statement said the killing of the security operative was a collateral damage in the ongoing operation to rid the state of hoodlums and protect the lives of its citizens, and that the military would not condone the killing of soldiers by hoodlums.