

# Cultists gun down soldier in Bayelsa

## Bayelsa Govt condemns kidnap of SSG's Mum

FROM **FEMI FOLARANMI,**  
YENAGOA

**SUSPECTED** members of a notorious cult group, identified as Icelanders, have gunned down a soldier in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State capital.

The killing of the soldiers is coming less than 48 hours after gunmen in military uniform kidnapped Mrs Betinah Benson, mother of the Secretary to the State Government.

According to Saturday Sun investigations, the soldier attached to the security outfit, Operation Delta

Safe (OPDS) Igbogene Yenagoa was killed in the wee hours of Friday morning over a deal gone wrong by the suspected cultists. A source said the deceased, a Corporal was called on phone at about 2am and his assailants met him at the Igbogene junction where they shot him dead.

He said: "They called him on phone and when he got close to them, they opened fire on him. And they zoomed off. The way it happened it seems they know one another. But we cannot explain what happened."

Meanwhile the Bayelsa State

Government has condemned in very strong terms the kidnap of Madam Betinah Benson, mother of the Secretary to the State Government, Hon Friday Konbowei Benson. The Bayelsa State Commissioner for Information, Orientation and Strategy, Hon Ayibaina Duba assured the people of the state to remain calm, saying the state government working with relevant security agencies are working round the clock to secure her release and apprehend the kidnappers.

He warned the kidnappers in their own interest to release Madam Benson unconditionally immediately.