

Militants Engage Soldiers in Reprisal Attack

• Dokubo vows to fight Obasanjo

*From Ahamfe Ogbu in Port
Harcourt and Segun James in Yenagoa*

facility located at Ogboinbiri community in the Southern Ijaw Local Government area of Bayelsa State.

About 12 soldiers were said to have been captured by the militants in the process.

THISDAY gathered that, embarrassed at the loss of nine warriors in the hands of soldiers, the militants had written the Commander of the Joint Task Force (JTF) on the Niger Delta, Brig. Gen. Lawrence Ngubani, intimating him of their intention to invade the Ogboinbiri Flow Station in retaliation for the killing of their boys.

True to their words, the militants arrived the location around 10 am and before long, a full scale battle broke out.

Confirming the situation at Ogboinbiri in a text message to THISDAY at about 3.45 pm yesterday, the Public Relations Officer of the JTF, Major Omale Ochaguwuba, said, "Yes they

attacked but details are still sketchy."

It would be recalled that barely two days after renouncing violence and the release of the last set of hostages in the state to Bayelsa State Governor Timipre Sylva-Sam, militants engaged soldiers in a gun battle on Tuesday which left nine militants dead.

On Obasanjo, the NDPVF leader who addressed the press at his 13 Agudama Street, D-Line, Port Harcourt described the former president as the most corrupt leader Nigeria ever had, alleging that the former President pretended to be clean while he helped himself to the collective wealth of the country.

He also accused him of being the most tribal by making six trillionaires under his regime out of which only Dangote was not from his Yoruba tribe with the money from the Niger Delta.

Dokubo vowed to use the rest of his life to fight and ensure that Obasanjo was brought to book.

He alleged that Obasanjo wanted to break his spirit in

detention after his attempt to bribe him with an oil block and the offer of Director of Youths in the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was resisted by him.

"I want to share with you my experience in the gulag of the

devilish and wicked government of Obasanjo. I will fight Obasanjo until he is brought to justice for the gross abuse of human rights, endemic corruption and inefficiency that were widespread in his government.

Dokubo said "if we don't bring Obasanjo to justice, whatever government has come in, if we don't bring this evil man to justice

there is no way this entity called Nigeria can move forward. I have made a contract with myself and God that I will fight this man until he is brought to justice".

He said there was the erroneous belief that because past leader of the Niger Delta were silenced and killed and nothing happened, that it would continue that way.

AC DIVIDED OVER YAR'ADUA *Cont'd from P1*

consulting Ige's party, AD, a development which later factionalised the party.

THISDAY reliably gathered that a member of the party from Lagos State was pencilled down for appointment by the President based on his personal qualification, but he and some other members of AC are said to be insisting that any offer of appointment must be channelled through the party.

This, it was gathered, further heightened the fears of those members who prefer that Yar'Adua must be allowed to relate with whoever he wants to relate with on an individual basis.

When a unanimous position could not be reached on how to

respond to the overtures of the President, sources at the meeting which lasted until the early hours of Friday said it was then resolved that a committee be set up on the issue and a formal response be made to the President's request.

Yesterday at a parley with journalists in Lagos, former Governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu said the party had forwarded a letter to the President in response to his overtures. Though he didn't disclose the content of the letter, Tinubu said: "We are in support of the party to respond, which they have done and there will be further instruction. Either a committee or whatever, representing both sides will be put together if

the atmosphere is conducive."

Tinubu who also commented on the April election said it cannot be called a proper election in spite of a contrary view by INEC. He said that President Yar'Adua must however be "commended" for accepting that there were shortcomings and there was an urgent need to reform the electoral process with a view to correcting the anomalies and preventing a recurrence.

Maintaining that the blame of whatever flaws that characterised the last election could not be put on President Yar'Adua, Tinubu said: "I have been saying it. You have to bring to shame those who are in charge of the election. They are the perpetrators. If there