

JTF Finds Expatriate's Corpse Floating On River

The corpse of an expatriate was found yesterday morning floating on a river in Ogbogoro community, Rivers State by members of the Joint Task Force (JTF).

The task force which took over the community from cultists following disturbances which claimed the lives of about six chiefs and other community leaders in the early hours of yesterday said the find was made during patrol.

Spokesperson of the JTF, Major Musa Sagir who confirmed the development to THISDAY said his colleagues who have been on intensive patrol and selective stop-and-search operation sighted the corpse but were yet to identify the nationality. He also con-

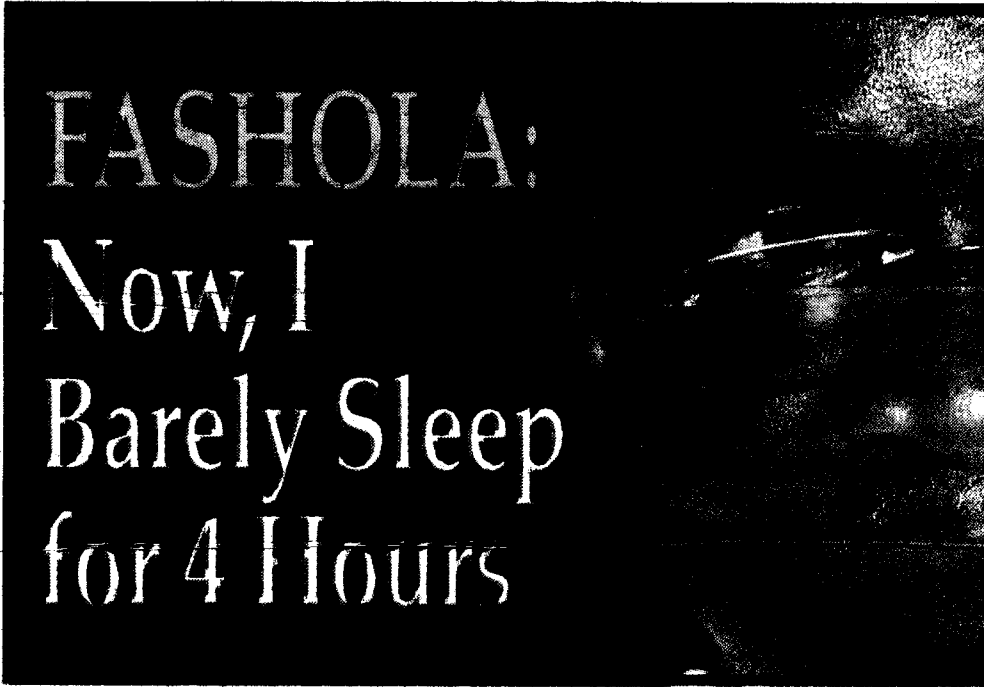
*From Ahamefula Ogbu
in Port Harcourt*

firmed that the Commander of the JTF, Brigadier-General Sarkin Yaki-Bello, has ordered the operatives to stay in the community and continue patrols and search of selective houses based on intelligence reports.

"The Commander of the JTF has ordered the soldiers to cordon-off the area and conduct selective search of designated houses in the village with a view to recovering arms and ammunition, documents and arrest the cultists.

"He also directed the JTF not to withdraw from Ogbogoro and for them to engage in aggressive patrol of the communities and the

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FASHOLA:
Now, I
Barely Sleep
for 4 Hours

JTF FINDS EXPATRIATE'S BODY *Cont'd from P1*

creeks. In the process of doing this, the JTF troops sighted a corpse of a white man floating on the River. "Efforts are now being made by the JTF and the locals to retrieve the corpse and through relevant authorities and diplomatic channels, identify the identity of the victim", he said. It is suspected that the corpse may be that of a hostage who was being kept by the cultists but died in their custody.

The late expatriate may also have been killed by

the cultists when they sensed that soldiers have overrun their base. The JTF had on Friday, arrested six of the cultists at Rumukani and Ozuoba when following intelligence that some of the cultists who carried out the killing of the community leaders were still at large while some have fled.

They cordoned off the community and searched designated houses where they arrested six of the cultists including a highly placed aide to Soboma

George, leader of one of the outlawed cult groups. Also recovered were arms and ammunition, documents which sources said would help nail some influential people in the state believed to be connected with the mayhem which engulfed the state in the past month.

Sources said trouble started in Ogbogoro community when its leaders met and decided that they were going to rid the community of cultists. They therefore called on their people to renounce

cultism and be re-integrated into the society. Some did while others refused. Some of the cultists were later arrested and were to be handed over to law enforcement agents. But some of the suspected cultists escaped and allegedly regrouped and launched an attack on the community, killing people and burning houses.

The community leaders thereafter sent a save-our-soul (SOS) to the JTF which responded promptly and restored peace in the area.