

N-Delta: Militants threaten fresh attacks

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MILITANTS in the Niger Delta appear set for a show down with the police in Rivers State over the killing of some persons they termed innocent Ijaw youths.

In a statement made available to *Sunday Vanguard*, yesterday, the militants, who spoke under the aegis of Joint Revolutionary Council gave the Police Command in the state forty eight hours within which to hand over to them its men who were behind the killing of the Ijaw youths for trial.

They said failure of the police to comply would compel them to carry out what they code named, "120 hours of rage against the police in the state".

The release signed by one Cynthia Whyte read in part, "In furtherance thereof, and on behalf of all the command structures of the Joint Revolutionary Council (JRC), we hereby demand that within 48 hours, the commissioner of police of the occupation Nigeria Police in Rivers State, the assistant commissioner of police in charge of STB and the DPO, Abiodun, and all others involved in the extra-

•Give Rivers police 48 hrs to hand over alleged Ijaw killers

tioned three Ijaw and Niger Delta people be handed over to the Joint Revolutionary Council (JRC)'s People's Tribunal for civilized and humane trial for the murder of the said Ijaw people as we do not have faith in the fascist Nigerian judiciary to provide an equitable and humane trial.

"Failure on the part of the Nigerian state to hand over these wanted men to us within the stipulated 48 hours will result in a declaration of "120 hours of rage" against every representation and semblance of the police force.

"After a trial in absentia, we will get them wherever they may be hiding even if it be in Aso Rock Villa. Let us also warn beforehand that any one who stands between us and our cause to get justice for these innocent Ijaws whose lives were cut short in their prime will have himself to blame. It will be an eye for an eye. All members of the police, their barracks and posts will be targeted in this new onslaught until we get justice for these innocent men killed in cold

blood. A stitch in time saves nine."

The statement which confirmed that the deceased Ijaw youths were into acts of cultism in the state however ruled out their involvement in robberies and other forms of criminalities. It explained that it was wrong for the police to have killed them without granting them the privi-

lege to defend themselves" Abiye Nangibo, Ngowari Briggs and Abdul Lateef Animashaun, the three were leaders of three different cult groups in Abonnema. While Abiye Nangibo is the leader of the Black Axe, Ngowari Briggs aaka Baabo is leader of D-12 (a break-away of the Degbam Cult) and Lateef is the leader of the Icelanders Confraternity."

Obi extends curfew by one week in Onitsha

ANAYO OKOLI, Awka

THE joint military/police security operatives deployed to quell the crisis in Onitsha yesterday swooped on motor parks in Nnewi, Ekwulobia and Igbo-ukwu, and dislodged members of Nigeria Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) who have relocated their siege on these parks. The operation was ordered by Governor Peter Obi of Anambra State as part of his sustained effort to sack hoodlums from the motor parks and markets in the state, even as the dusk to

dawn curfew has been extended by one week.

Also, Governor Peter Obi has said that he had not petitioned the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to investigate the activities of his predecessor, Dr. Chris Ngige. Obi also said that the state government or any of its agencies have not been mandated to write the commission requesting it to probe Ngige. Obi who spoke to reporters yesterday in Awka shortly after making his third statewide broadcast within ten days on the Onitsha crisis, did not however rule out blackmail on the EFCC issue.