

Ijaw community accuses military of killing 38 residents

By Samuel Oyadongha

YENAGOA—THE Gbauraun community in the Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State has petitioned the Presidency alleging the murder of 38 of its residents by military men during an invasion.

The incident which reportedly happened penultimate Friday could not be confirmed by the police authorities as the state Police Public Relation Officer, Mr. Iniobong Ibokette (DSP) said he was yet to get any signal to that effect.

However, the community in the petition alleged that no fewer than 38 people were killed during the raid which they claimed lasted for about five hours.

The community therefore wants the Presidency to set up a Commission of Enquiry to investigate the matter, alleging that the corpses of the slain people were taken away by the invading soldiers said to be members of the Joint Task Force.

Lamenting the sad incident, the people of the community said the properties of prominent sons including the palace of the Agadagba, Pere M.E.A. Bipedei, the house and the premises of High Chief Levi Edidi, Madam Iyoroikiye Inga, among others were looted.

It called on the JTF to tender unreserved apology to the people of Gbaraun Kingdom who have been subjected to the needless and undue mental and psychological injury suffered as direct consequences of the genocide and destruction of their properties.