

Group claims responsibility for killing 21 Cameroonians

By George Onah

PORT HARCOURT—A group, which calls itself the Liberators of the Southern Cameroons, has warned that the death of the 21 Cameroonian Gendarmes in the Bakassi Peninsular was a tip of the iceberg, as more deaths will be recorded soon.

Claiming responsibility for the killing of the gendarmes, the group in an online statement sent to *Vanguard* in Port Harcourt, yesterday, told the Cameroon Government to vacate Southern Cameroon because it is a sovereign homeland of a people who do not belong to that country.

Signed by one Jovo Avuk, the statement told the AU and UN not to intervene in the matter until every single French and French Camerounese colonial occupation force leaves the Southern Cameroon.

The mail, which was in capital letters titled "Bakassi attack we are responsible", read: "Until France and la Repub-

lique du Cameroun leave our homeland, the Southern Cameroons, we will not rest.

We reject any intervention from the AU or UN until every single French and French Camerounese colonial occupation force leaves the Southern Cameroons, a country with her own internationally defined borders. We will defend those borders till our death. The Bakassi 21 is just the tip of the iceberg.

We are the liberators of the Southern Cameroons."

Recently, the Cameroonians in an apparent retaliation for the killing of the gendarmes allegedly killed 10 Nigerians in the area. There were speculations that the militants of the Niger Delta may have been responsible for the attack on the gendarmes.

The speculation in Bakassi area had it that the militants had an agreement for the supply of arms and ammunition, following which some undisclosed huge amount of money was availed the alleged gun runners in Cameroon.