

[HOME](#)[Site Français](#)[Site Guide](#)[Who We Are](#)[Content Providers](#)[Advertising](#)[My Account](#)[MyAfrica](#)[Biztech](#)[Susta](#)**Relevant Links**[West Africa](#)

[Nigeria](#)
[Arms and Military Affairs](#)
[Human Rights](#)
[Conflict, Peace and Security](#)

Topics**FREE EMAIL HEADLINES**

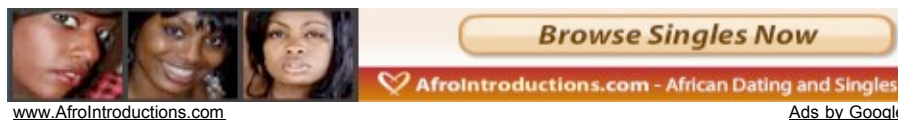
[Special Reports & Briefings](#)
[Photo Essays](#)
[From allAfrica](#)
[Topical Focus Pages](#)
[Resources and Documents](#)
[RSS Feeds](#)
[BlogAfrica](#)

[Arts, Culture, Entertainment](#)
[Books](#)
[Book Reviews](#)
[Children & Youth](#)
[Conflict and Security](#)
[Crime and Corruption](#)
[Economy, Business, & Finance](#)
[Editorials](#)
[Education](#)
[Environment](#)
[Sustainable Development](#)
[Food, Agriculture and Rural Issues](#)
[Health](#)
[AIDS](#)
[Malaria](#)
[ICT and Telecom](#)
[Legal Affairs and Crime](#)
[Media](#)
[Music](#)
[Music Reviews](#)
[Religion](#)
[Refugees](#)
[Science and Biotech](#)
[Sport](#)
[Soccer](#)

[Travel](#)
[Women](#)

[U.S., Canada and Africa](#)
[Europe and Africa](#)
[Asia, Australia, and Africa](#)
[Middle East and Africa](#)
[Latin America and Africa](#)

[Internet Gateway](#)
[Content Providers](#)

**VANGUARD****Nigeria: Mass Killings, Burial in Niger Delta - Villagers**

Emma Amaize

5 December 2010

[Recommander](#)

13 personnes recommandent ça.

SURVIVORS of the December 1 invasion of Ayakoromor community in Burutu Local Government Area of Delta State by the Joint Task Force, JTF, on the Niger-Delta, code-named Operation Restore Hope, yesterday, gave chilling details of how they escaped death, their kinsmen killed and homes razed.

[Email](#) | [Print](#) | [Comment\(5\)](#)

Share:



They also narrated how soldiers carried out mass burial of the slain villagers. The claims were, however, denied by the commander of the task force, Major-General Charles Omoregie, in a chat with newsmen, in Warri.

Kerala Holiday Packages

Check the Beautiful destination Exotic Beaches, Rich Wildlife. Visit

KeralaTourism.org/Keralavacation



Ads by Google

and not the villagers. According to him, the few houses burnt were those situated under PHCN tension wire.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Ayakoromor people, displaced as a result of the attack, are scattered all over Warri, Ogbeloh and Ughelli, where they are living as refugees, but some of them were said to have returned to the community by the JTF, which provided relief materials and medicare for some of them.

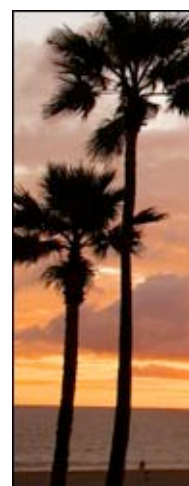
The acting governor of Delta State, Prince Sam Obi, sent a government delegation, led by the Permanent Secretary, Governor's Office, Warri, Mr. Patrick Origho, to the Ogbeloh camp of the displaced persons, weekend, to sympathise with the victims. It was learned that government would begin distribution of relief materials for the victims from tomorrow.

The survivors said the JTF boss was lying, insisting that the soldiers deliberately opened fire on them and not militants, as John Togo's camp was three miles away from the community.

A civil servant, Mr. Anthony Dilaye Kokone,



SELECT -- R
 SELECT -- T

**IN TOPICAL FOCUS**

who was in Ayakoromor on December 1 when the soldiers struck, said the community chairman, Mr. D.C. Oguguru, got information that JTF was coming to Ayakoromor area with gunboats and he called the villagers to inform them, saying they should lie down in their homes and relax, since the community leaders had been assured that the task force was searching for Togo, and not the people.



Vanguard

Displaced Ayakoromor villagers.

"But, surprisingly, the JTF sprayed bullets on us. Children, parents and others who were asked by the community chairman to remain in their homes had to run into the bush when the bombardment became too much."

"First, we heard gunshots, then, two jet fighters came from Warri side and were shelling the town. Later, more than 18 gun boats coming from Warri side started shooting at the community from about 25 miles."

NIGERIA VIDEO FROM

"I and my family, father and my children ran to the residence of the Reverend Father of the Catholic Church. That is where we slept. The soldiers did not bomb his house and I personally saw the corpses of Pastor Tinuse Gbarakpa of the Assemblies of God Church, Onitsha Kitua and Kitua who were killed by the bombing of December 1", he said.

[Rediscover Love in Bruges](#)

Special Valentine's Day
Break Offer Stay 3
Nights in Bruges, Pay
for 2.

www.WinterInBrugge.be



According to the eye-witness, the leader of the soldiers that carried out the invasion announced in English that they would return the next day and if those that escaped to the bush liked, they should remain in the bush, while some God-fearing soldiers later told the villagers to run for their dear lives.

"They returned to Okwagbe between 6p.m. and 7p.m. and I and seven members of my family entered canoes to escape to Gbekebor. Over 1,000 persons fled that night", he said.

"No soldier will say that nobody was killed at Ayakoromor because they are carrying out mass burial of those killed in front of the Customary Court", Kokone added.

MOST ACTIVE ST

Most Read | Most

1. [Army Officer](#)

Sponsored

[Cremation and Burial Services](#)[Cremation Memorials](#)[Sea Burial](#)[African American Troops](#)[Help Soldiers](#)[Burial Flag](#)[Special Forces Gear](#)[Burial or Cremation](#)[Military Special Operations](#)[Army National Guard](#)[Open Fire](#)[Travel to Equatorial Guinea](#)[The New Soldier](#)[Military Government](#)

Invading gunboats

A teacher, Mrs. Niyainta Engoere, told Sunday Vanguard, "My son called me at about 12p.m. on that day that 15-20 gunboats were coming to Ayakoromor and that we should run. Before we knew it, the soldiers were already in the community. Though I called some friends, the community chairman told the entire village that his information was that the soldiers were not coming for us, so we should stay in our homes and sleep so as not to allow stray bullets to harm us.

"But the JTF had a different agenda. One of the gunboats came very close to the houses and started to shell bullets. My sister-in-law, Mrs. Julie Matthew's house was burnt, a PHCN transformer was burnt down, they were shooting everywhere and when they came down, my house was one of the houses they broke into.

"Many people had run to my house for safety and they threatened to kill us. We begged them not to kill us or burn down our houses. All of us were ordered to go out. As we came out, I saw them burning my father-in-law's house. His name is Sokorofo Perekeme, they also burnt down part of my church, Christian United Church of Zion. My own house was also burnt with all my certificates.

"From there, we were all herded to the centre of the town, where we were all asked to sit on the ground. In our presence, more than 30 buildings and provisions stores were set ablaze. The house of a navy captain who died two years ago was burnt.

His father, Nelson Demebide, was inside when it was set ablaze", she said.

Among other buildings burnt, according to her, were those belonging to Peter, Maria and Samco by the waterside, while at about 7p.m., the leader of the invading soldiers ordered them to leave the community, adding, "I cannot count the so many souls that were lying down when they left, but there were over 40 corpses".

She said her own house was razed and she left in a local boat to Gbekebor with some survivors. Mrs. Engoere said the shooting continued on December 2 and even in Gbekebor, when they ran to for safety, they were still gripped with fear, and so, they managed to escape again to Warri.

Mass burial

Carnaval du Brésil

Vivez une des plus belles fêtes du monde.
Le Brésil vous appelle !
Braziltour.com/heritage



"On December 2, the soldiers carried out mass burial in the front of the Customary Court. They were burying corpses, I saw them. I am from the village and know where to hide. I lost two persons. They cannot say they did not kill people. Who killed Onitsha Kitua and Bonaventure, who was doing a master's degree programme?

A retired headmaster, Mr. Yeigagha, was also shot," she added.

A housewife, Mrs. Philomena Anthony, whose husband, Mr. Anthony Oyaye, was still missing, said they were living their normal life in the community when the soldiers came to slaughter them on December 1. She said she ran with her one-week-old baby and a daughter into the bush and does not know the whereabouts of her other children as at yesterday.

The urban chairman of Ayakoromor community, Chief Albert Doutimiyabo, said two corpses were brought to Warri and the oldest man of Ayakoromor community was hospitalized as a result of the incident.

According to him, the task force and SSS were threatening to arrest him and members of his executive for telling the world that Ayakoromore people were massacred, saying, "This whole thing is strange because John Togo camp is not in Ayakoromor. The community is now abandoned; we are 15,000 in population by the 2006 census figure".

Secretary of the community, Comrade Joseph Oweike, who painted the same picture of the invasion on December 1 by soldiers with aircraft and gunboats, said he had not seen his wife and children since the incident.

Corpses, arson

Ads by Google

[Veteran Jobs](#)[Veteran Loans](#)[Military Transition](#)[Army Finance Benefits](#)

1. [Army Officer Wiwa](#)
2. [Wikileaks Re](#)
3. [Northerners](#)
4. [Babangida S](#)
5. [Wikileaks - I](#)
6. [Atiku On BB Delta](#)
7. [Army Admits](#)
8. [National Ass Lie](#)
9. [U.S. Diplom June 2009](#)
10. [Why PDP Bi](#)

Developm

PhD, MA, a
of Social S
www.iss.nl



AT A GLANCE »

[Protect Civilians](#)
[Delta Raids](#)
[Multiple Taxatio](#)
[Foreign Reserv](#)
[Looted Funds V](#)
[U.S. Envoy](#)
[Abubakar Deter](#)

MORE NEWS FR

[Nigeria: Lagos-Okonjo-Iweala](#)

[Nigeria: Bloody](#)

[Nigeria: 2011 - Million to Sensi](#)

[Nigeria: John T in Ayakoromor](#)

[Nigeria: Court R Ohakim's Electi](#)

[Nigeria: Ijaw G Ayakoromo](#)

[Nigeria: Abia C](#)

[Nigeria: Seven](#)

Relevant Links

[West Africa](#)

He gave the names of those he knew were killed as Onitsha Kitua, an assistant headmaster of Ombuatouwei Primary School, New Town, Ayakoromor, Tolo Egbe, Pastor Timesen, Terry, a headmaster, Mr. Kalama Bonaventure, adding that he personally saw their corpses and when he returned to his house later, the soldiers had burnt it.

**West Africa
Nigeria
Arms and Armies
Human Rights
Conflict**

Another victim, Jimmy Aye, who was shot at the back, showed his wound to Sunday Vanguard and appealed to government for protection, saying they were not militants.

Kelvin Ebiyeibo, also a victim, said his mother, Mrs. Eyinime Ebiyeibo, was killed while his father's home in the community was burnt down by soldiers. Besides, the residence of Oleh Abi, a sister to his father, Mr. Sylvester Ebiyeibo, was razed.

Page 1 of 2 1 2

Recommander

13 personnes recommandent ça.

[Read comments.](#) [Write your own.](#)

Jonathan Orders Task Force to Protect Civilians

[NEWS — Nigeria: Protect Civilians, Jonathan Orders After Niger Delta Raids](#)

[NEWS — Nigeria: Army Admits Civilians Died in Multiple Battles](#)

[NEWS — Nigeria: Delta Leader Warns on Killing of Villagers](#)

[NEWS — Nigeria: Community Protests as JTF Continues Bombardment](#)

[NEWS — Nigeria: Militants Dare JTF Soldiers, Declare Commander Wanted](#)

TODAY'S FEATURED NEWS



Pre-Election Controversy in Uganda Over 'Militia' Training



The Great Northern Hopes for Nigeria's 2011 Elections



New Vaccine Set to Wipe Out Deadly Meningitis

BUSINESS/TECHONLOGY NEWS



Zimbabwe Court Asked to Prevent Diamond Exports



Tanzania Govt Meets Donors as Budget Deficit Widens



Nigerian Govt Lifts Ban on Textile Imports

More News on allAfrica.com



Ondo Govt, Youths Trade Words Over Varsity
YOUTHS in the Ondo South Senatorial District, ...



Northern Oil Production to Reach 110,000 BPD Before Year End - Official
The oil production ...



FCMB Aids 600 Visually Impaired Citizens to Celebrate Christmas
As the world prepares for ...



Women Accountants Donate Books to Schools
The FCT Society of Women Accountants of Nigeria ...



North, South Reach "Preliminary" Deal to Share



2011 - National Assembly Approves N550 Million to