

Youths protest alleged killing of member by JTF in Delta

BY GODWIN OGHRE

SAPELE—IT was pan-demonium in Okirighwre in Sapele Local Government Area of Delta State, weekend, as youths no fewer than 500, protested what they described as unwarranted killing of one of their members by the Joint Military Task Force, with base in Koko, Warri North Local Government Area of the state.

The youths under the aegis of Okirighwre youths, matched through major roads, causing heavy traffic jam on the Okirighwre Warri highway. The youths accused JTF operatives of killing one Mr. Ogbotor Usieme, a.k.a Egede, whom they described as a peaceful young man, whose wife, Doris Usieme, gave birth to a baby boy, three months ago.

Spokesman of the youths, Mr David Akponome told *Vanguard* that the said Ogbotor Usieme went out to check on a friend about 8pm on Thursday night, when he was accosted by a

team of JTF men on Okeretagba Road in Okirighwre, whom they alleged, opened fire on him and killed him on the spot.

Akponome also alleged that after the JTF men had shot and killed him, they took his lifeless body to the Delta State University Hospital, that night, where doctors confirmed him dead and

his body was later taken to JTF base in Koko, while the family members were yet to recover it.

Another youth, who spoke on condition of anonymity and gave a different account, said, the victim was the leader of one of the two factions of youth groups, which had taken up arms against each other and from whom the JTF men had commenced disarming in the last two weeks. He alleged that during the last disar-

mament session, recently, many of the youths surrounded their arms under the watchful eyes of some top officials of Delta State Government headed by the Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Ovuzorie Macaulay, adding that the JTF men who shot and killed the victim were on arm recovery mission and shot the victim, when he was about to escape from check by JTF men.



Rev. Dele George nee Ogbemudia (2nd left) and other members of the committee after the inaugural meeting of friends and associates of Dr. Osaighovo Ogbemudia met to plan for Ogbemudia's 80th birthday in Benin.

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lieve that using the army aware of the abuse and misuse