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THURSDAY 31 AUGUST

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Gunmen kill 4 soldiers, civilian in Bayelsa

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By Samuel Oyadongha

YENAGOA—UNKNOWN gunmen, suspected to be militants, have killed four soldiers and a civilian in an ambush along the creek of Letugbene in Ekeremor Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

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The incident, according to multiple security sources, occurred on Monday as the soldiers were returning from an operation in the council area.

While one of the civilians, a boat driver, was said to have escaped, the only survivor of the attack reportedly jumped into the water before he was shot by the militants.

An Ijaw youth leader and Chairman of the Ijaw Youth Council, IYC, Central Zone, Mr. Tare Porri, described it as 'bizarre and unprovoked.'

He said his zonal leadership will meet today to discuss the issue and other problems affecting the zone.

He said the incident had pushed the Joint Task Force, JTF, *Operation Delta Safe*, to begin a military operation in Letugbene and Ebelabiri, adding that residents accused the Military of burning down houses and destroying property in their search for the perpetrators.