



## Army, thugs killed over 35 at Abonnema—Wike's aide

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By Egufe Yafugborhi

**PORT HARCOURT**—SPECIAL Adviser to the Governor of Rivers State on Infrastructure, . Otonye Briggs, has said over 35 lives were lost to the Presidential election day killings involving the Nigerian Army and thugs in Abonnema, Akuku Toru Local Government Area of the state.

Briggs was apprehended by soldiers about 7a.m., from his Abonnema Hotel place before he could cast his vote on the March 9 governorship election and has been through military and Police detentions, but was released last week on the orders of a court.

The Army, which lost a Lieutenant in the Abonnema election violence, declared killing six persons in the incidence. But Briggs in a statement alleged that the soldiers “with a known criminal collaborator killed more than 35 indigenes and strangers living in the community.



“Abonnema was in such mourning that the people and chiefs had to hold a memorial service which took place on March 6, at the Nyemoni Lutheran Church, Abonnema.

“It is sad that the Amayanabo of Abonnema and the Council of Chiefs were compelled to summon All Progressives Congress, APC, and Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, politicians on March 7 to a peace pact against repeat of February 23 mayhem, and only PDP attended and signed the peace pact.

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“APC bluntly refused, maybe because they were planning more evil.”

On his ordeal in military and Police custody over his arrest, Briggs said: “I was moved to 130 Battalion, Harry’s Town, Degema LGA, before being whisked to the 6 Division Nigeria Army, Port Harcourt.

“I was detained till the following day, deprived of voting and duty as collation/returning agent of PDP for the governorship.

“The following day, being March 10, the military moved me to the 6 Division, Bori Camp, detained me in their dungeon till March 19, when I was bundled to the

Special Anti-Robbery Squad, SARS, Port Harcourt, without justification.”



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