

**UNREPORTED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES
and
2015/2016 BAYELSA STATE
GOVERNORSHIP ELECTIONS VIOLENCE**



A REPORT BY SAVE THE IJAW NATION GROUP, NIGERIA

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation

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“Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our support goes to those who struggle to gain those rights or keep them. Our strength is our unity of purpose. To that high concept there can be no end save victory.” – Franklin D. Roosevelt



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DEDICATION

The candle burns not for us, but for all those whom the government failed to protect; those who were shot, who were tortured, who were kidnapped, and those who disappeared without trace.

This report is dedicated to all the fallen, maimed and dispossessed citizens of Bayelsa State.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF BAYELSA STATE

Bayelsa State is one of the 36 States in Nigeria. It is in the South-South geo-political region and has a population of about 1.7million distributed across Eight (8) Local Government Areas. On Dec 5, 2015, it conducted its Governorship election.

The election was a two-horse race between two candidates; the incumbent Governor Seriake Dickson of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and his immediate predecessor, Chief Timipre Sylva of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Bayelsa State has 663,748 registered voters (54 % male and 46 % female), 1,806 Polling Units, 105 Wards, eight local government areas, three senatorial districts, five federal constituencies and 24 state constituencies.

INEC deployed 9,827 poll workers to conduct the governorship poll. Twenty out of the 29 registered political parties in Nigeria fielded candidates in the December 5, 2015 governorship polls in Bayelsa State.

The Nigerian Police Force alone deployed 14,000 of its personnel under the leadership of a Deputy Inspector-General of Police. Three Commissioners of Police were also in the team, with one Commissioner overseeing each of the three Senatorial Zones. The Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps deployed about 5,000 personnel as well, while the military and Joint Task Force equally provided additional security.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ...

The election that ushered in the first tenure of Governor Seriake Dickson in 2011 was peaceful and violence-free. However, the 2015/2016 Governorship elections in Bayelsa State witnessed acts of terror, gross human rights violations, electoral violence, murders across some local government areas and communities in the state orchestrated by the All Progressive Congress (APC).

During the primary elections of both parties, the PDP had a very peaceful primary, while the APC primaries were characterized by violence and bloodshed. Armed youths and cultists freely brandished automatic rifles, machetes and cudgels and attacked supporters of the opponents in the intra-party election. The APC primaries witnessed the kidnap of the serving governor of Edo State who complained about the display of arms by APC youths and the resultant violence.



Governor Adams Oshiomhole of Edo State

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ...

Before the December 5th elections, there were rumours that APC politicians in Bayelsa State were stockpiling weapons to perpetrate violence during the elections. The Bayelsa State Government addressed series of Press Conferences in this regard climaxing in the signing of an INEC-brokered Peace Accord between the PDP Governorship candidate Governor Seriake Dickson, the APC Governorship candidate Chief Timipre Marlin Sylva and 18 other aspirants on the 10th of November 2015.



Clearly, the Bayelsa State election violence was planned by the APC leadership and carried out by APC supporters. Some of the perpetrators apprehended confessed to this fact. A common trend in the militia attack showed that across the various local government areas, the armed mob were all dressed in black attires and had brand new machetes, axes and guns.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ...

As a confidence-building measure, the NUJ, Nigerian Electoral Debate Group organized a debate. Whereas the PDP candidate attended all the debates, the APC candidate, Mr. Timipre Sylva only attended the first debate. During the electioneering campaigns, bloodshed was narrowly averted as reports of provocation and assault on party supporters were reported

On the 2nd of November 2015 at about 6pm along the Isaac Boro Expressway, APC supporters pelted stones and gravels on the convoy of Governor Seriake Dickson as the Governor's convoy drove pass the APC Campaign Headquarters. Fortunately, security personnel attached to the Governor showed maturity and great restraint by ignoring the provocations of the opposition party.

The next day on the 3rd of November 2015 at about 3pm, on a campaign tour of Swali in Yenagoa Local Government, the Governor's convoy was also pelted by APC supporters wielding brooms (a symbol of the party) and sticks as the convoy passed through Swali Market. Security agents and supporters of the PDP also maintained great restraint during this encounter.

Electoral violence before, during and after the elections were reported mainly in some communities in 4 Local Government Areas mainly: Brass, Ekeremor, Nembe and Southern Ijaw.

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

1) Save Ijaw Nation, in collaboration with Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Societies Groups on compilation of this report will forward a copy to the following;

- The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
- The Office of the Inspector-General Of Police, Abuja
- Senate President, National Assembly, Abuja
- Speaker, House of Representatives, NASS, Abuja
- Bayelsa State Government
- Chief Justice of Nigeria
- Civil Liberties Organization, Nigeria
- National Human Rights Commission, Nigeria
- Independent National Electoral Commission
- The Governorship Elections Petitions Tribunal
- Nigeria Governors Forum
- PDP Governors Forum
- APC Governors Forum
- Amnesty International, United Kingdom
- International Criminal Court, The Hague
- Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, London
- International Federation for Human Rights
- Chief of Defence Staff

2) The purpose of this report is to show the widely unreported gross violation of Human Right Abuses that occurred in the immediate past; reoccurred pre, during and are still on-going after the December 5th, 2015 and January 9th, 2016 Bayelsa State Governorship Elections.

3) The fact-finding team behind this report will carry out extensive research in material gathering through interviews, official security documents gathering and newspaper clippings.

4) The Ijaw Nation and several Nigerian Civil Society Groups will work in partnership with the Niger Delta region of Nigeria in research and information gathering.

5) The report will come with a video documentary which will attempt to highlight important aspects of the research materials. The report and documentary will be delivered to Amnesty International UK and other international NGOs/Civil Society Groups after an international media briefing in both London and Nigeria.

6) The fact-finding team will use a team of researchers, volunteers and cameramen to carry out this research through interviews, which will be transcribed and captured on camera.

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SYNOPSIS

This is a report on the 2015/2016 Bayelsa State Governorship Election, one of the worst and under-reported cases of election violence in the history of Nigeria. Many Bayelsans were murdered; scores hospitalized with gunshot and machete wounds. Properties worth billions of Naira were looted, vandalized and burnt.

At the time of compiling this report a community like Peremabiri has been deserted since January 10th 2016, its men, women and children have become IDPs at a sports complex in the capital city of Yenagoa. Peremabiri is currently being occupied by a criminal gang led by General Ogunboss.

Nigerian security agents are aware of the facts in this report but have refused to arrest and prosecute the criminal perpetrators and their sponsors.

This report is an URGENT call for JUSTICE!

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2.0 METHODOLOGY

This report has been compiled with victims of the Human Rights abuse in mind. The fact-finding team that compiled this report has made no attempt to put forward its views but hopes the reader will glean from the interviews, newspaper clippings and police reports, the veracity and authenticity of this document. We have tried to make sense of all the data by collecting, exploring and interpreting them.

Interviews with victims, field notes from civil societies and documents from security agents and observations provided majority of the descriptive account of this report.

This was essentially a qualitative research and our data analysis began after we visited the Peremabri IDP Camp in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

We hope this report will further inform subsequent data collection and emerging findings for additional clarification of gross human rights abuses during the 2015/16 Bayelsa State Governorship Election

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CHAPTER 3

ELECTORAL VIOLENCE IN THE 2015/2016 BAYELSA STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTIONS

SOUTHERN IJAW

NEMBE

EKEREMOR

BRASS

YENAGOA



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FACTS SHEET: CRIME, VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS

BRASS LGA

Locations:

Twon-Brass, Odiograma, Akassa-Ibe and Ewoama etc.

Victims:

Daupribo Ikuromo machete cuts to the head; **Inaworio Esinkuma** machete cuts to the head; **Austin Adigio** injured on his right small finger; **Acting PDP Chairman - HRH (Barr.) Serena David Dokubo-Spiff** attacked and robbed; **Chief Ebi Mathew S.G. Olofoni** - Brass Local Government Chairman of PDP; **HRH Kune Igoni Claudius** - Ward Leader, Brass Ward 2; **Eben Dokubo** - Speech Writer to the Governor; **Sir (Engr.) Henry Domo Spiff Allen** - PDP Stalwart, his personal staff namely **Juluis Afadi, B.M. Pere, Bio Teigbanyo, Emeka Banerman, Ikio Mathew, Ikiworio Smith Teigbanyo, Saviour Ibiene Michael, Usman David, Tonworio Spiff, Jonathan Kumosuonyon (a.k.a. Phido), Hon. Ruth Iyala, Senator Inatimi Rufus Spiff**-Former Deputy Speaker, **Victor Sam Ateki, Chief (Capt.) Inatimi Nyingifa**-SSA to Governor Dickson, **Chief Kuro Spiff Akoko** SSA to the Deputy Governor; **Alabo Hanson, Efebo Ikiomoye** SSA to Deputy Governor and **Ayebanengiyefa David Moses**

Weapons:

AK 47 guns, machetes, axes and other dangerous weapons.

Other Crimes:

They looted cash, clothes, Jewelry, electronics, furniture, musical equipment etc.

Perpetrators:

150 fierce looking APC thugs led by Hon. Israel Sonny Goli, Alias Adi, Opu Pogo, Bobo Harrison, Emmanuel Pogo, Kalio Tonton, Atonye, alias Black Harrow Eremi, Kingsley Ekine, Inemo Pogo, Toutu Dokubo, Sule Edmond, Sylvester Ogbomota Parker.

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EKEREMOR LGA

Location: Ekeremor Town

The victims that were attacked included;

- **Rt. Hon. Boyelayefa Debekeme** former Speaker of the State House of Assembly.
- **Hon. Billy Tobiyei (Current Chairman Ekeremor LGA)** beaten with various weapons by rampaging APC mob.
- **Captain Tony Mezeh (Rtd.) - Senior Special Assistant to the Bayelsa State Governor on Security;** was attacked and brutalized by APC mob and sustained injuries to his eyes and ears and Tams Alari.

The following were injured from gunshot wounds; David Bakumor, Asi Custom, Godsdag Agbere, Lawrence Ojokai, Peter Omagbemi, Steven Dio, Tony Sunday, Morris Musa while Ekankumo Owei and Roland Yinkore died as a result of gun shots.

Mr. Simeon Otor was murdered by APC mob. Gunshot to the body in Ekeremor Town, Ekeremor LGA. Corpse deposited in Bomadi Mortuary in Delta State.

Weapons:

AK 47 guns, machetes, axes and other dangerous weapons. They looted cash, clothes, Jewelry, electronics, furniture etc.

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NEMBE LGA

Location: Bassambri

Victims:

Five PDP supporters were shot by APC thugs under the prying eyes of the military. They include; Nicholas Sampson, Oweiga Clement, Opiriye Iyala, Princewill Takubo and Joseph John. Mr. Nicholas Sampson gunshot to the right thigh, Mr. Oweigha Clement gunshot to the left thigh, Mr. Opiriye Iyalla gunshot to the chest, Mr. Princewill Takubo gunshot to the left thigh and Mr. Joseph John gunshot to the back. Pastor Jonah, a University lecturer narrowly escaped death when he was attacked by three persons.

PERPETRATORS

Mr Fyne Ikierigha, Kodjo Sam, Bishop Degi Eremienyo , Chief Ikanawori Igoma, Chief Fente Abrakasa (aka Abanga) , Biokpomoye Nicholas, Oyepalmokuma Saturday, Sinte Oyenifemokuma, Thomas Aboki , Felix Eferibo, Pereyun Enekio, Kpokiri Victor, Panya Degi

Weapons:

AK 47 guns, machetes, axes and other dangerous weapons.

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SOUTHERN IJAW LGA

LOCATION

Peremabiri, Apoi, Deibu

VICTIMS

HRH Prosper Never-Die (Paramount Ruler of Peremabiri Community) - Gunshot to the head by rampaging APC militia led by Gen Ogunboss.

Mr. Newman Ekpoedimono - gunshot injury to the knee.

Mr. Cooler Simon - recovering from machete cut to the head.

Mr. Godbless Douglas - gunshot to the left thigh.

Mr. William Prince - gunshot to the right shoulder with multiple open fractures to the left arm.

Mr. Animiyeafa John - gunshot to the left chest with embedded bullet and open chest wound.

Mr. Mugabe Daniel - gunshot to the buttocks.

Mr. Emmanuel Nicholas - recovering from Gunshot wounds to the chest.

Mrs. Godgift - she is the mother of Late Isaac Godgift. Her son was brutally murdered

PERPETRATORS

Paul Eris aka Gen. Ogunboss

General Afrika

Charles Korobo Ayibatari

Weapons:

AK 47 guns, machetes, axes and other dangerous weapons.

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THE CASE OF THE 14 APC CHIEFTAINS, ARRESTED FOR BEING IN POSSESSION OF 10 AK47'S AND SEVERAL ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION IN SOUTHERN IJAW LGA

On the 17th of December 2015, 14 APC chieftains were charged and arraigned before the Magistrate Court in Bayelsa State for the illegal possession of 10 AK 47 rifles accompanied by a large cache of ammunitions. This matter was filed as one case but divided into two separate four-count charges.

The first set of people charged was:

- 1) Hon. Egberibin Donald Jacob - aged 46 years
- 2) Mr. Talent Williams
- 3) Mr. Lomi David - aged 25 years
- 4) Mr. Sigah Frederick Paul - aged 33 years
- 5) Mr. Felix Lawrence - aged 27 years

The second set arrested and charged were:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1) Louis Ogbeha | 'M' Aged 33yrs |
| 2) Ebilade John | 'M' Aged 25yrs |
| 3) Timi Denson | 'M' Aged 34yrs |
| 4) Denghanbofa Agbodobiri | 'M' Aged 32yrs |
| 5) Kpari Wonyi Brakere-Eni | 'M' Aged 32yrs |
| 6) Fezi Bisho | 'M' Aged 39yrs |
| 7) Emomotimi Oshondu | 'M' Aged 32yrs |
| 8) Kesiye Eberebo | 'M' Aged 28yrs |
| 9) Samuel Flag | 'M' Aged 35yrs |

As explained above, these were two separate set of charges. Ten (10) persons were charged with Ten (10) AK47's but read from two separate charge sheets divided into five persons each, in a 4-count charge:

THE CASE OF THE 14 APC CHIEFTAINS

1) Count 1, Possession of 5 AK47's in Oporoma LGA, punishable under section 444 (4) of the Criminal Code, Cap 14, laws of Bayelsa State 2006.

2) Count 2, Possession of 5 AK47's, without a licence, contrary to section 3 and punishable under section 27(1) (a) (i) of the fire arms Act CAP F 28 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria , 2004.

3) Count 3, Possession Conspiracy to commit a felony with unlawful possession of 409 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, punishable under section 444 (a) of the criminal code cap C14 laws of Bayelsa State.

4) Count 4, Unlawful possession of 409 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition without a licence contrary to section 8 and punishable under 27 (1) (b) (ii) of the fire arms act cap 28 laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The fourteen (14) accused persons were initially prosecuted by the Commissioner of Police Bayelsa State, the complainant.

However due to the spate of violence during the December 5th Governorship Elections and the concern that more violence would be unleashed on the State in the January 9th 2016 supplementary Governorship Elections; in a bid to curb the excesses of criminal gangs in the State, the Bayelsa State Government took over the case and requested that the Nigerian Police Force handover the case file to them for further prosecution. However this request was declined.

When the government of Bayelsa State enquired why their request was declined, the Nigerian Police Force informed the State that there were interests in the case from Abuja.

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THE CASE OF THE 14 APC CHIEFTAINS

Subsequently, the Inspector-General of Police requested that the Attorney- General of the Federation prosecute the fourteen (14) accused persons and not the Attorney-General of Bayelsa State.

The fourteen (14) accused were subsequently granted bail through a Port Harcourt High Court.

The case is still in court and came up for hearing in the Bayelsa State High Court on March 8th, 2016.

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF BAYELSA STATE
IN THE YENAGOA MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT
HOLDEN AT YENAGOA

CHARGE NO: YMC/ ^{14/12/15} /2015

BETWEEN

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

COMPLAINANT

AND

1. HON EGBERIBINE DONALD JACOB 'M' AGED 46 YRS
2. MR TALENT WILLIAMS 'M' AGED YRS
3. MR LOMI DAVID 'M' AGED 25 YRS
4. MR SIGAH FREDRICK PAUL 'M' AGED 33 YRS
5. MR FELIX LAWRENCE 'M' AGED 27 YRS

ACCUSED

That you Hon Egberibin Donald Jacob 'm', Mr. Talent Williams 'm', Mr. Lomi David 'm', Mr. Sigah Fredrick Paul 'm' and Mr. Felix Lawrence 'm' on the 5th day of December 2015 at Hon. Egberibene Dornard's residence in Oporoma Community Southern Ijaw LGA did conspire among yourselves to commit felony to wit: unlawful possession of 5 AK 47 rifles and thereby committed an offence punishable under section 444(a) of the criminal code CAP C 14 laws of Bayelsa State, 2006.

COUNT 2

That you Hon Egberibin Donald Jacob 'm', Mr. Talent Williams 'm', Mr. Lomi David 'm', Mr. Sigah Fredrick Paul 'm' and Mr. Felix Lawrence 'm' on the same date and place did unlawfully have in your possession or under your control 5 AK 47 rifles being among the class of prohibited fire arms specified in Part 1 of the schedule of the fire arms act without a licence granted by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 3 and punishable under section 27(1) (a)(i) of the fire arms Act CAP F 28 laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

COUNT 3

That you Hon Egberibin Donald Jacob 'm', Mr. Talent Williams 'm', Mr. Lomi David 'm', Mr. Sigah Fredrick Paul 'm' and Mr. Felix Lawrence 'm' on the same date and place did conspire among yourselves to commit felony to wit: unlawful possession of 409 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition and thereby committed an offence punishable under section 444(a) of the criminal code CAP C 14 laws of Bayelsa State, 2006.

COUNT 4

That you Hon Egberibin Donald Jacob 'm', Mr. Talent Williams 'm', Mr. Lomi David 'm', Mr. Sigah Fredrick Paul 'm' and Mr. Felix Lawrence 'm' on the same date and place did unlawfully have in your possession or under your control 409 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition without a licence granted by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 8 and punishable under section 27(1)(b) (ii) of the fire arms Act CAP F 28 law of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

.....
DSP UBANWA KENNETH
ASP JAMES ANATA
O/C Legal
NPF. State CIID
Yenagoa.

Date of arraignment 17/12/2015
Plea
Bail
Finding
Punishment
Court Chief Magistrate Court Yenagoa
Magistrate B-A-MUKORO PENABOR (MRS)
Prosecutor
Exhibit
Court Order
IPO
Date of adjournment

Chief Magistrate Court 1, Yenagoa.

ADJ: 22/12/2015

17/12/15

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF BAYELSA STATE
IN THE YENAGOA MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

HOLDEN AT YENAGOA

CHARGE NO: YMC/ ⁴⁴⁷ / 2015

BETWEEN

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

COMPLAINANT

AND

- 1. HON EGBERIBINE DONALD JACOB 'M' AGED 46 YRS
- 2. MR TALENT WILLIAMS 'M' AGED YRS
- 3. MR LOMI DAVID 'M' AGED 25 YRS
- 4. MR SIGAH FREDRICK PAUL 'M' AGED 33 YRS
- 5. MR FELIX LAWRENCE 'M' AGED 27 YRS

} ACCUSED

That you Hon Egberibin Donald Jacob 'm', Mr. Talent Williams 'm', Mr. Lomi David 'm', Mr. Sigah Fredrick Paul 'm' and Mr. Felix Lawrence 'm' on the 5th day of December 2015 at Hon. Egberibene Dornard's residence in Oporoma Community Southern Ijaw LGA did conspire among yourselves to commit felony to wit: unlawful possession of 5 AK 47 rifles and thereby committed an offence punishable under section 444(a) of the criminal code CAP C 14 laws of Bayelsa State, 2006.

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That you Hon Egberibin Donald Jacob 'm', Mr. Talent Williams 'm', Mr. Lomi David 'm', Mr. Sigah Fredrick Paul 'm' and Mr. Felix Lawrence 'm' on the same date and place did conspire among yourselves to commit felony to wit: unlawful possession of 409 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition and thereby committed an offence punishable under section 444(a) of the criminal code CAP C 14 laws of Bayelsa State, 2006.

COUNT 4

That you Hon Egberibin Donald Jacob 'm', Mr. Talent Williams 'm', Mr. Lomi David 'm', Mr. Sigah Fredrick Paul 'm' and Mr. Felix Lawrence 'm' on the same date and place did unlawfully have in your possession or under your control 409 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition without a licence granted by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 8 and punishable under section 27(1)(b) (ii) of the fire arms Act CAP F 28 law of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

.....

DSP UBANWA KENNETH
ASP JAMES ANATA
O/C Legal
NPF. State CIID
Yenagoa.

Date of arraignment
Plea
Bail
Finding
Punishment
Court
Magistrate
Prosecutor
Exhibit
Court Order
IPO
Date of adjournment

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA

IN THE YENAGOA JUDICIAL DIVISION

HOLDEN AT YENAGOA

CHARGE NO: FHC/ YNG/ 61 C / 2015

BETWEEN

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE

COMPLAINANT

AND

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. LOUIS OGBEHA | 'M' AGED 33 YRS |
| 2. EBILADE JOHN | 'M' AGED 25 YRS |
| 3. TIMI DENSON | 'M' AGED 34 YRS |
| 4. DENGHANBOFA AGBODOBIRI | 'M' AGED 32 YRS |
| 5. KPARI WONYIN BRAKERE-ENI | 'M' AGED 32 YRS |
| 6. FEZI BISHO | 'M' AGED 39 YRS |
| 7. EMOMOTIMU OSHONDU | 'M' AGED 32 YRS |
| 8. KESIYE EBEBEBO | 'M' AGED 28 YRS |
| 9. SAMUEL FLAG | 'M' AGED 35 YRS |

ACCUSED

That you Louis Ogbegha 'm', Ebilade John 'm', Timi Denson 'm', Denghanbofa Agbodobiri 'm', Kpari Wonyinbrakere-emi 'm', Fezi Bisho 'm', Emomotimi Osuno 'm', Kesiye Eberebo 'm' and Samuel Flag 'm' on the 6th day of December 2015 at Oporoma Community Southern Ijaw LGA in the Yenagoa Judicial Division of the Federal High Court did conspire among yourselves to commit felony to wit:



unlawful possession of 5 AK 47 rifles and thereby committed an offence punishable under section 516 of the criminal code CAP C38 laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

COUNT 2

That you Louis Ogbegha 'm', Ebilade John 'm', Timi Denson 'm', Denghanbofa Agbodobiri 'm', Kpari Wonyinbrakere-emi 'm', Fezi Bisho 'm', Emomotimi Osuno 'm', Kesiye Eberebo 'm' and Samuel Flag 'm' on the same date and place, in the aforesaid Judicial Division did unlawfully have in your possession or under your control 5 AK 47 rifles being among the class of prohibited fire arms specified in Part 1 of the schedule of the fire arms act without a licence granted by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 3 and punishable under section 27(1) (a)(i) of the fire arms Act CAP F 28 laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

COUNT 3

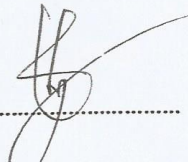
That you Louis Ogbegha 'm', Ebilade John 'm', Timi Denson 'm', Denghanbofa Agbodobiri 'm', Kpari Wonyinbrakere-emi 'm', Fezi Bisho 'm', Emomotimi Osuno 'm', Kesiye Eberebo 'm' and Samuel Flag 'm' on the same date and place, in the aforesaid Judicial Division did conspire among yourselves to commit felony to wit: unlawful possession of 389 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition and thereby committed an offence punishable under section 516 of the criminal code CAP C 38 laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

COUNT 4

That you Louis Ogbegha 'm', Ebilade John 'm', Timi Denson 'm', Denghanbofa Agbodobiri 'm', Kpari Wonyinbrakere-emi 'm', Fezi Bisho 'm', Emomotimi Osuno 'm', Kesiye Eberibo 'm' and Samuel Flag 'm' on the same date and place, in the aforesaid Judicial Division did unlawfully have in your possession or under your control 389 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition without a licence granted by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 8 and punishable under section 27(1)(b) (ii) of the Fire Arms Act CAP F 28 law of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

DATED THE.....DAY OF..... 2015




.....
ASP JAMES ANATA

O/C Legal

NPF. State CIID

Yenagoa.



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

PRE-ELECTION AND ELECTION DAY VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY THE BAYELSA STATE APC

**AS NARRATED BY AUSTINE ADIGIO
(SSA to Bayelsa State Governor)**

“On December 2nd at about 9am, in Brass LGA Ward 4, myself and the SA on Students affairs, my PA and other aides were in my house when suddenly about ten boys appeared from different angles with machetes chanting APC slogans and descended on us. I jumped into the river and took refuge in the Kings Palace and communicated with Governor Dickson on the position. But my P.A and other aides were not so lucky as I was as they were macheted. The Governor then sent the number of Naval Commander Anthony and I contacted him and he immediately sent a team to rescue us. My aides were then taken to the hospital and stitched.

There were ten casualties recorded and they are all known faces because they were from my village. The gang leader was Oye Tekene. I was bold enough to call Sylva and reported the case of the violence perpetrated by his boys and he replied me saying “...and you are still talking?” That presupposes that Sylva was aware of the happenings. But for the timely intervention of the naval officers we were supposed to be lynched.”

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BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

PRE-ELECTION AND ELECTION DAY VIOLENCE.. AUSTINE ADIGIO contd.

“This attack was a red-flag for wholesale atrocities in Twon-Brass, Odioama, Akassa-Ibe and Ewoama among other communities. The APC thugs chanted war songs and APC slogans, freely roamed the communities and made a proclamation commanding any person(s) who would not vote for Chief Timipre Sylva to leave the community or be killed. Several others were beaten and sustained various degrees of injuries”

Those that received machete wounds include:

- *Daupribo Ikuromo was macheted on the head.*
- *Inaworio Esinkuma was also macheted on the head.*
- *Austin Adigio had his right finger cut with a machete.*

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA



Austin Adigio

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

PRE-ELECTION AND ELECTION DAY VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY THE BAYELSA STATE ALL PROGRESSIVE CONGRESS (APC)

AS NARRATED BY HRH DAVID SERENA DOKUBO SPIFF

I arrived on the eve of the election and right away I began to see signs of violent activities by persons believed to be from the APC. They began to take violent action against our people and officials on the 4th day of December and even assaulted people who left my residence. Then on the 5th of December, about 7:30am, I was having consultations in my residence in Twon-Brass with the Chairman of PDP Brass L.G.A, Chief Ebi Matthew Olofoni; Leader of Ward 2, HRH Kune Claudius; Engr. Henry Domo-Spiff Allen and Elder Eben Dokubo, Speech Writer to the Governor.

We saw a host of young men numbering over 150 carrying guns that looked like A.K 47 and other dangerous weapons, moving riotously around the town chanting their party slogan “APC Change, Change Dickson” and of course, we were terrified and they were coming in my direction. The mob included heavily-armed men in Mobile Police uniform.

We made frantic calls to various Law Enforcement and Security Agencies to report the invasion. We were also in constant touch with Government House with real time updates of the unfolding horror.

Using a sledge hammer and axes, they breached the heavy security and gained access into the building unleashing mayhem at the ground floor. We called for rescue but to no avail. All the additional Special Forces deployed to Twon-Brass were curiously, confined to the Divisional Police Headquarters just a five-minute drive from our location and were not allowed to intervene.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

PRE-ELECTION AND ELECTION DAY...

AS NARRATED BY HRH DAVID SERENA DOKUBO SPIFF...

We decided to resort to self-help by barricading the doors and they eventually over-powered us and gained access. My heart pounds anytime I think about the electoral violence. The tragedy is that for two and half hours we were under siege and there was no help from anywhere because there was no attempt to stop them. We were stripped, punched, kicked and stomped on, slashed, stabbed and thoroughly bruised. We were relieved of all our belongings. The entire building was looted and thrashed.

When the team led by the supervising Commissioner of Police arrived, they decided to take us to the station for safety. On the way, they made a detour and conveyed us to the house of the man who led the attack on us, Hon. Israel Sonny Goli. We resisted the attempt to make us disembark from the vehicles. After a twenty-minute wait, we were finally taken to the police station where some of us made written statements.

A van and six armed policemen were detailed to take some of the injured amongst us to the General Hospital for treatment. Within minutes of our arrival, all the policemen and the van disappeared, leaving us at the mercy of armed gangs on a rampage who came looking for us at the hospital, ostensibly, to finish us up. We fled the A & E Department and yet again, barricaded ourselves in a remote vacant office. When our rescuers arrived in two gunboats, we dashed to the jetty and set sail to the safer shores of Nembe. Apart from the loss of irreplaceable items, we still bear the physical and psychological scars of the trauma.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation

Letter by the State Chairman of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

16th December 2015

The Chairman,
Independent National Electrical Commission (INEC),
Prof. Mahmood Yakubu,
INEC Headquarters, Abuja,
Nigeria.

Dear Sir,

REASONS WHY PURPORTED ELECTION IN BRASS WARDS1, 2, 3, AND 4 CANNOT, AND SHOULD NOT, STAND

The pictures below depict the acts of vile vandalism that were unleashed on the Brass Palace of the Acting Chairman of the PDP Bayelsa State Chapter, HRH David Serena-Dokubo Spiff.





BRASS WARD 1

VIOLENCE ON THE DAY OF ELECTION

At about 7am, about 150 supporters of APC, armed with guns, machetes, daggers and other dangerous objects, started parading the streets of Twon Brass, looking for PDP members.

At about 8.am, they attacked the palace of the Acting Chairman of the PDP, completely vandalizing the house and looting every single valuable item therein.

The intimidation and assault lasted about two and a half hours, as the hoodlums held sway and dispensed terror, fear and alarm, unchallenged by anybody, force, institution or authority whatsoever.

As they attacked, they chanted “APC Change “change Dickson” and “Adi wamene master”... Meaning “Adi is our master” The reference is to Hon. Israel Sunny Goli who represents Brass Wards 1, 2 and 6 at the Bayelsa State House of Assembly.

With The Acting Chairman in his bedroom suite at the top floor of his house at the time, were the following persons:

1. Chief Ebi Mathew S.G. Olofoni, Brass Local Government Chairman of PDP
2. Highness Kune Igoni Claudius, Ward Leader, Brass Ward 2

3. Eben Dokubo, Speech Writer to the Governor

4. Sir Engr. Henry Domo Spiff Allen, PDP Stalwart

The above PDP Officials and members were subjected to severe beating and humiliation, while members of the Acting Chairman's household received machete cuts on their face, hands and other parts.

In particular, his house keeper Mr. Julius Afadi was macheted on the forehead and hand. Because he alongside the Acting Chairman made a statement to the Police in Brass wherein he specifically mentioned the name of Adi as the one who led the attackers. There have been death threats to him as a result, driving him to go into hiding.

The APC attackers roamed freely from street to street, ferreting out PDP officials and supporters and subjecting them to physical attack. As at the time of writing, several PDP supporters are still in hiding, unable to come out for fear of being attacked.

The following additional acts of violence were perpetrated against PDP Supporters on Election Day:

-The residence of HRH Beinmonyo Rufus Spiff Cameron was attacked, resulting in broken windows.

- Leader of APC Decampees to PDP on Brass Rally day, Saviour was severely macheted and thought to be dead. Latest reports happily, say that he barely made it and is recuperating at a hideout

- PDP officials /supporters – Ibiene Michael, Usman David, Tonworio Spiff, Jonathan Kumosuonyon (A.K.A. Phido) and Hon. Ruth Iyala, were all beaten up and injured ;

- The following PDP Stalwarts were held hostage at Erieria Hotel, where they were harassed, beaten up and stripped of their belongings including large amounts of cash, jewellery and other valuables.

i. Senator Inatimi Rufus Spiff

ii. Former Deputy Speaker, Victor Sam Ateki

iii. Chief (Capt) Inatimi Nyingifa SSA to Governor Dickson

iv. SSA to the Deputy Governor, Chief Kuro Spiff Akoko

v. Several PDP Poll.



Mr. Julius Afadi, House Keeper of the Acting Chairman, received machete cuts in his hand and head. To his left is Mr. Eben Dokubo, Speechwriter to the Governor and Mr. B.M. Pere, IT/Media Aide to the Acting Chairman of the PDP, Bayelsa Chapter.



Bloodied bed where one of the occupants of the house was macheted in his sleep

WARD 2

PDP Stalwart Alabo Hanson's house was attacked between 10pm and 11pm on Friday 4th of December.

On Election Day, APC thugs launched coordinated attacks on PDP supporters and agents preventing them from exercising their right to vote.

Some of those who were attacked are:

- Alabo Hanson was attacked by Hon. Israel Sonny Goli and his boys

- Ayebakuro Edger the ward 2 Chairman's House was attacked
- Efebo Ikiomoye (SSA to Deputy Governor) was attacked in ward

WARD 3 (EWOAMA)

On Friday the 4th of December 2015, APC THUGS UNLEASHED MAYHEM on PDP supporters in Ward 3 Ewoama, inflicting machet cuts on several persons and causing them to flee their houses into the swamps and creeks. They hid there for dear life until after the elections the next day.



Ayebanengiyefa David Moses, a PDP agent, matcheted by APC thugs while running for his dear life

WARD 4 (OKPOAMA)

On the eve of the elections, Hon. Austin Adigio was attacked by a group of APC hoodlums, wielding guns, machetes, cudgels, and other dangerous weapons. He was manhandled and given an injury on his right hand. They ordered him to leave town with his supporters if he loved his life.

Also at the eve of the election, the APC and their thugs chanting war songs and APC! Change Dickson! Freely roaming Okpoama, the home town of Chief Timipre Sylva made a proclamation commanding any person who does not intend to vote for Chief Timipre Sylva to leave the community or be killed.

The death threat made a very large number of the PDP supporters to scamper for safety in neighbouring towns. Those who could not leave were attacked and thereby PREVENTING THEM FROM CASTING THEIR VOTES for our candidate, His Excellency, Hon. Henry Seriake Dickson.

Those who were attacked to wit:

1. Daupribo Ikuromo was macheted on the head on.
2. Inaworio Esinkuma was also macheted on the head.
3. Austin Adigio injured on his right small finger.

Several others were beaten and sustained various injuries. Again, most of the stakeholders were asked to leave the town in their own interest if they were not going to vote for APC.

Consequent upon the above, none of the members of the PDP ventured out to vote just as the party had no agent at the polling unit neither at the ward collation centre to represent its interest. Hence the election was carried out without PDP participation and as such massively rigged.



PDP Agent Ibogomo Olali, attacked in Ward 4

WARD 5

APC candidate Chief Timipre Sylva visited Odioma on Friday the 4th of December at about 9pm to campaign even after campaigns had officially closed the day before. He came with three gun boats in company of the Military Head of Brass Agip Base Alpha1.

He was however prevented by members of the community from entering the town.

The foregoing is the circumstance in which elections were alleged to have held in Brass Wards 1, 2, 3 and 4. It was the scenario that the APC gleefully claims to have won 21,755 votes on that literally bloody day of electoral infamy!

CONCLUSION

From the aforesaid, it is crystal clear that the purported election in Brass Wards 1, 2, 3, and 4 were a complete sham, and a negation of the spirit and letter of the electoral laws of Nigeria. It is an utter violation of the Constitution of The Federal Republic of Nigeria. The purported outcome of that severely flawed exercise **MUST NOT STAND !**

It is the crudest form of electioneering endeavour ever, anywhere in the world, for, while the head of one of the disputant parties was held hostage in his residence on election day and prevented from casting his vote, as were hundreds of his party members, the opposition held sway, freely brandishing AK47s and other dangerous weapons dispensing mayhem, fear and alarm, while a sham 'election' went on.

INEC must therefore take such steps as are necessary and appropriate to retrieve its honourable name.

Barrister Serena-Dokubo Spiff
Ag. Chairman, Bayelsa PDP

Hon. Godpower Keku
Secretary, PDP Bayelsa State

**Letter by the State Chairman of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the
Commissioner of Police, Bayelsa State Police Command**

9th December, 2015

The Commissioner of Police,
Bayelsa State Police Command,
Yenagoa,
Bayelsa State.

Dear Sir,

**THREAT TO LIFE, WIDESPREAD, SYSTEMATIC ATTACK ON SUPORTERS
OF PDP, BY THE APC AND THEIR THUGS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER
THE BAYELSA STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION IN BRASS LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA OF 05TH DECEMBER, 2015 :**

A CALL FOR THE ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF THE PERPETRATORS

We write in our capacity as, members, and on behalf of the State Working Committee of the Peoples Democratic Party, Bayelsa State Chapter, to formally notify you of the grave criminality perpetrated by the All Progressives Congress (APC) and their thugs in Brass Local Government Area before, during and after the Governorship Election.

An earlier complaint has already been lodged by our Acting Chairman himself, Barrister Serena-Dokubo Spiff with the Divisional Police Officer of the Nigerian Police in Twon Brass on the day of the incident, the 05th of December, 2015. This letter serves as the formal petition of the party itself.

Sir, on the 5th of December 2015, fierce looking thugs numbering over a hundred and fifty, brandishing guns, machetes, battle axes and other lethal weapons stormed Twon, Brass in a marauding manner. Amongst them are: Hon. Israel Sonny Goli, Alias Adi, Opu Pogo, Bobo Harrison. Emmanuel Pogo, Kalio Tonton, Atonye, alias Black Harrow, Eremi, Kingsley Ekine, Inemo Pogo, Toutu Dokubo,

Sule Edmond, Silvester Ogbomota and Paka. They brazenly with impunity forcefully entered the multi storey country home of the Acting Chairman of our Party the PDP wherein they perpetrated unprecedented violence against him and his household and also vandalise the building.

They held many PDP supporters hostage while others ran into the nearest bushes and swamps for safety, as the rampaging hoodlums freely paraded the streets of Twon Brass chanting war songs and “ APC, CHANGE !” and firing into the air causing fear and alarm. The intimidation and assaults operation lasted about two and a half hours, as the hoodlums held sway and dispensed terror, fear and alarm, unchallenged by anybody, force, institution or authority whatsoever. A complaint has earlier been lodged with the Divisional Police Officer in Brass on the 5th of December, 2015. A petition lodged with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) dated 7th December, 2015 detailing the criminal acts perpetrated by Hon. Israel Sonny Goli and his cohorts is hereby attached and incorporate by reference.

We hereby demand the immediate arrest and prosecution of those thugs who perpetrated the dastardly criminal acts in accordance with law to serve as deterrent to others.

Barrister Serena-Dokubo Spiff
Chairman, Bayelsa PDP

Hon. Godpower Keku
Secretary, Bayelsa PDP



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

PRE-ELECTION AND ELECTION DAY VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY THE BAYELSA STATE ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS (APC)

AS NARRATED BY CHIEF BEINMO SPIFF

“On the 9th of December, around 7am, a group of young men led by Sunny Igoli (aka Adi), the assembly member and Parker, came to my house and tried to get into my house but couldn't. So they broke all my windows. They were with MOPOL shooting guns, scaring the neighbours around the place and then I had to call the military people. Luckily the military people were around and they came to my rescue.

When they came, the boys in my house were angry at them asking why they saw the men shooting and did not arrest them and their reply was how can they shoot at their fellow uniformed people. All what they did was to ask them to stop and leave the environment. So they came to apologise to me that they are sorry for what their men have done and all that. But Adi who led them, Parker Stanford, Bomo, Clement and Chief Ayerite.

These were the leaders of the men I could see when I peeped through my window. They shot several gunshots. So when I came out, when the present police commissioner heard about it and came to inspect my house, he saw everything and took our report.”

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

PRE-ELECTION AND ELECTION DAY VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY THE BAYELSA STATE ALL PROGRESSIVE CONGRESS (APC) AS NARRATED BY HELEN BOB

She is the Deputy Director on Women Mobilization in the Restoration Campaign Organization.

“There was an announcement made by the Town Crier that if you don’t have the interest of the community you should not come out because the interest of the community is for the APC and its candidate. My younger sister who happens to be a councilor was pursued out of her residence by APC thugs and took refuge with elders of the community in a burial ground, saying she should leave the town because she is supporting the PDP.

I reported the case to the JTF, but found out that the JTF stopped me not to accuse the APC of anything and that they are waiting for the SSA Youth Affairs. On the election morning, we heard news that the Acting Chairman of the PDP has been attacked and immediately they called me that the APC thugs were coming my way and that they have attacked Chief Beinmo. I was advised severally never to go out to the polling units and that the APC thugs had started parading A.K 47 guns in the town; that the APC youths are the only ones allowed to vote.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

PRE-ELECTION AND ELECTION DAY ... AS NARRATED BY HELEN BOB...

Immediately information reached me that the APC candidate, Timipre Sylva is in my residence, when I came out I saw my house surrounded by the JTF and Timipre Sylva already seated and I was ordered to sit down in my own house.

He, Timipre Sylva told me he brought me into light and that he built the structure and even patronizes my business and asked why I left to serve Dickson. I replied saying, I left him because of the uncontrolled nature of his supporters with which names were mentioned and am at peace with Gov. Dickson being the Governor and they walked out

We the women had to go and sign an undertaking with the APC supporters to allow us into the town even at that we have no peace in our community. The APC thugs that came to harass us are known faces, they are from our community. The people in the hospitals were visited and given stipends, there was no elections in ward 1,2,3 and 4 in Brass L.G.A”.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

VIOLENCE DURING THE DEC. 5, 2015 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION

On the day of the election, there were series of atrocities committed in Brass LGA.

They include the following;

- At about 7:30am approximately 150 fierce looking APC thugs led by **Hon. Israel Sonny Goli (aka Adi), Opu Pogo, Bobo Harriso, Emmanuel Pogo, Kalio Tonton, Atonye, alias Black Arrow, Eremi, Kingsley Ekine, Inemo Pogo, Toutu Dokubo, Sule Edmond, Silvester Ogbomota and Paka** brandishing AK 47 guns, machetes, axes and other dangerous weapons attacked and vandalized the private residence of the Acting PDP Chairman HRH (Barr.) Serena David Dokubo-Spiff at Ada-Ama, Twon-Brass.

As they besieged his gate he made frantic calls to the Commissioner of Police who promised to send reinforcement but unfortunately for over two and a half hours that the attack lasted, help never came. They looted cash, clothes, jewelry, electronics, furniture, musical equipment etc in the paramount ruler's palace.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

VIOLENCE DURING THE DEC. 5...

On the day of the election, there were series of atrocities committed in Brass LGA. They include the following;

The following persons were brutalized and robbed by the APC mob;

- *Chief Ebi Mathew S.G. Olofoni, Chairman, Brass Local Government PDP.*
- *HRH Kune Igoni Claudius, Ward Leader, Brass Ward 2.*
- *Eben Dokubo, Speech Writer to the Governor*
- *Sir Engr. Henry Domo Spiff-Allen, PDP Stalwart.*

Others include his (Spiff-Allen's) personal staff namely Juluis Afadi, B.M. Pere, Bio Teigbanyo, Emeka Banerman, Ikio Mathew and Ikioworio Smith Teigbanyo.

In particular, his house keeper, Mr. Julius Afadi was macheted on the forehead and hand.

- The chairman has since lodged a complaint with the police but unfortunately no arrest has been made and no proper investigation has been undertaken by the police. It appears there is a grand plot to cover up and shield the perpetrators by the authorities.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

VIOLENCE DURING THE DEC. 5 ...

The following additional acts of violence were on the same day perpetrated against PDP Supporters:

- Vandalization of the private residence of HRH Beinmonyo Rufus Spiff Cameron, a PDP leader.
- Vandalization of the private residence of Chief Ebi Mathew, S.G. Olofoni, Chairman of PDP Chapter in Brass Local Government Area.
- Leader of APC Decampees to PDP on Brass Rally Day, Mr Saviour was severely macheted and thought to be dead. Latest reports happily, say that he barely made it and is recuperating at a hideout.
- PDP officials /supporters – Ibiene Michael, Usman David, Tonworio Spiff, Jonathan Kumosuonyon (a.k.a. Phido) and Hon. Ruth Iyala, were all beaten up and injured.
- The following PDP Stalwarts were held hostage at Erieria Hotel, where they were harassed, beaten up and stripped of their belongings including large amounts of cash, jewellery and other valuables; Senator Inatimi Rufus Spiff; Former Deputy Speaker, Victor Sam Ateki; Chief (Capt) Inatimi Nyingifa, SSA to Governor Dickson and Chief Kuro Spiff Akoko SSA to the Deputy Governor.
- The hijack of AGIP Terminal in Brass to rig elections (There is an existing petition against AGIP accusing the company of conspiracy and complicity).

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

VIOLENCE DURING THE DEC. 5...

WARD 2

PDP Stalwart Alabo Hanson's house was attacked between 10pm and 11pm on Friday, 4th of December.

APC thugs launched coordinated attacks on PDP supporters and agents preventing them from exercising their rights to vote.

Some of those who were attacked are:

- **Alabo Hanson** who was attacked by **Hon. Israel Sonny Goli** and his boy **Ayebakuro Edger**.

- **Efebo Ikiomoye (SSA to Deputy Governor)** was attacked in ward

WARD 3 (EWOAMA)

On Friday the 4th of December 2015, APC thugs unleashed mayhem on PDP supporters in Ward 3 Ewoama, inflicting matchete cuts on several persons.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE



WARD 3 (EWOAMA)

Ayebanengiyefa David Moses, a PDP agent, matcheted by APC thugs while running for his dear life



WARD 4: PDP Agent Ibogomo Olali, attacked

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE



The pictures above and right depict the acts of vandalism Unleashed on the Brass Palace of the Acting Chairman of the PDP Bayelsa State Chapter, HRH David Serena-Dokubo Spiff.



Mr. Julius Afadi, House Keeper of the Acting PDP Chairman, received machete cuts in his hand and head.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: EWOAMA (BRASS LGA)

Name of Victim: **Dauprebo Ikuromo**

Sustained machete cut on the head and right hand.



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

REPORT OF How MY HUSBAND'S JEEP WAS DESTROYED

I am Mrs Stella I. Ebiye resident in Kemmer^{Am}, Twom Brass in Brass L.G.A; And also a card carrying member of PDP Peoples Democratic Party (ward 2). of constituency 1 of the above mentioned L.G.A. Before the supplementary Governorship ~~and~~ election of the 9th January ²⁰¹⁶ in Bayelsa State.

I was informed by someone ^{via phone call with an unknown number} that there was a plot ^{Madam Beauty's house} to invade my house and if possible I might be killed by some ~~political~~ political thugs. As a result of that information early the next morning I secretly left the town for Rivers State with my family.

After the ~~9th~~ ~~night~~ election I return back on the 12th which Tuesday to be precised. On ~~my~~ arrival I still noticed the presence of boys carrying cutlasses and wearing black upon black. Out of fear I asked what was going ~~on~~ on and I was told there ~~is~~ was unrest in the town. Again I took my family and ~~targeted~~ ^{lodged} in an hotel still remembering the fear as a result of the previous phone calls

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



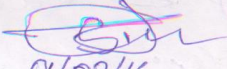
BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: MRS. STELLA I. EBIYE contd.

LOCATION: TWON-BRASS

Before ~~leaving~~ leaving Brass I ~~parked~~ parked my ~~car~~ ~~at~~ ~~my~~ ~~pastor's~~ ~~place~~ only to find the back window screen of my husband jeep destroyed. My Pastor was not even aware because I covered it with tarpulin more ~~not~~ interestingly, it was not only my husband car that was parked there but it was my husband jeep alone that was destroyed. I made a formal report to the police ^{in Brass}. They went to scene and they saw it themselves.


01/02/16
MRS STELLA I. EBIYE

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: MRS. STELLA I. EBIYE contd.

LOCATION: TWON-BRASS



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: JONATHAN K. DEBO

LOCATION: TWON-BRASS

ELECTION VIOLENT

It all started on Friday 4th December, 2015, when we were in Twon-Brass for the Governorship Election, some APC thugs from the community accompanied with some militant leader Commander Africa's Boys attacked some PDP Supporters in the evening hours at about 9:00pm, because of the attach, virtually all PDP Supporters went on hide out till the following morning which is on the early hours of 5th being the election day, when we the PDP unit agents went to the INEC office at consulate, we observed that none of APC Supporters were there, we were even surprised and was asking some people around, but they said, they too don't know what is happening.

At that point, when they brought out the materials, we the PDP unit agents too followed the INCE Officers down to Ada-AMA Open Square where they off-load the election materials, it was at that point as I was standing with the INEC Officers and the security personnels that were assigned for those units I saw some group of boys all putting on black attires, carrying weapons like matches, cutlasses, guns, rods, pursuing one young man running towards me and as the boy Numoipre Alagoa, sees me, he was confident that he has gotten who will rescue him, at that point, they were even trying to go back, and from afar they were telling him that he was lucky, they would have killed him, but before I could realize one of the boys within the thugs with name-Black Arrow recognized me, and immediately ordered the rest of them to come after me, and while they were coming towards me, that said Black Arrow, was even telling the police that you people should stay out of this, that this has nothing to do with you, and so the police never did anything.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: JONATHAN K. DEBO

LOCATION: TWON-BRASS

As the boys rushed me in the midst of the police to attack me, one first used one butcher machet on me but I wedge his hand and put blow on the other person but since they were in group and outnumbered me, the other ones went through my back and used rods to hit me on my waist, there I fell down and they started hitting me with the weapons they were holding, I was able to escape from them but as I was running I later fell down again under a kiosk and it was at that point they still followed me and started beating me up, hitting me with machets, rods, planks, stones etc. They even took my little money of about **₦47,000.00 (Forty Seven Thousand Naira)** which was in my pocket, but as God may have it, I managed to raise the Kiosk and throw it down and escaped for my dear life, that was what happened to me on the 5th of December, 2015.

The leader of this said Group is Hon. Israel Sunny Goli, Aka Adi. Member representing Brass Constituency 1 in the Bayelsa State House of Assembly. After all this has happened to me, I never received any treatment from anybody, cause, when my family members went to call nurse that has a Chemist, the person told them that they've been warned not to come out and treat anybody, that if they caught, any of them, that they will deal with that person, so it was the help of family members, who used local herbs to stop the serious bleeding.

It was when I managed through escape route to Yenagoa, that I went to glory land hospital for proper treatment.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation

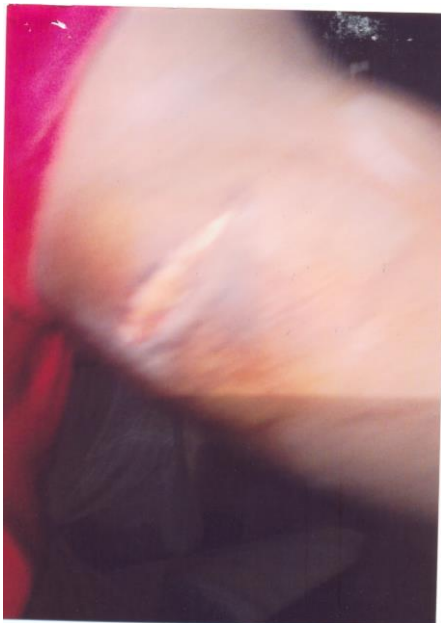


BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: JONATHAN K. DEBO

LOCATION: TWON-BRASS



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: JONATHAN K. DEBO

LOCATION: TWON-BRASS

GLORYLAND MEDICAL CENTRE
Head Office: DSP Alamiyeseigha Expressway, opp. High Court Complex, Ovom, Yenagoa.
e-mail: Inrimedcent@yahoo.com
Tel.: 08033088579, 08082510679, 08058946975

2nd February 2016

MEDICAL REPORT
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
JONATHAN DEBO SEX: M 44 YEARS

The above named patient was managed in our facility for 2 months ago for superficial head injury 2° assault. Injury was dressed; skull X-ray done showed no bony involvement.

All other investigations done showed satisfactory results.

He was managed accordingly.

Please accord him all necessary assistance needed.

Dr. Disi B.
Medical Officer
Signed.....

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PRINCE DIEDIAGHA

LOCATION: WARD 2 - BRASS



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: MOSES BENJAMIN

LOCATION: WARD 2 - BRASS



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: SAVEYOR BENJAMIN

LOCATION: WARD 2 - BRASS



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BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: EDGAR AYEBAKURO

LOCATION: WARD 2 - BRASS



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BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PRINCE PAUL

LOCATION: WARD 2 - BRASS



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PDP - Party Secretariat

LOCATION: WARD 2 - BRASS



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EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

T.K OKOROTIE (OFR)

71 years old, a politician, the pioneer Majority Chief Whip of the Old Rivers State House of Assembly.

“Early in the morning, immediately after the arrival of Sen. Heneiken Lokpobiri, people started running to take refuge in the community. They broke into my compound and said they were looking for me, Kpala, Andagha Fleke, destroyed properties belonging to them, brought out his wives and started beating them up.

The group of about 25 thugs led by Teco the younger brother of Heneiken Lokpobiri and about 300 armed hoodlums were brought in by APC on Wednesday preceding the Saturday elections. The APC thugs ransacked the community, destroyed every property belonging to the PDP including two PDP secretariats that were commissioned by the Governor during his campaigns.

On the 8th, they went into the Governor's lodge destroyed and vandalized the building, machetted Tams Alari, a party leader that escorted INEC materials to the community, also machetted Hon. Boyelayefa Debekeme Former Speaker of the Bayelsa State House of Assembly. I asked for Ten mobile Police men for my security because the APC thugs were shooting sporadically in the night.”

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

On the 8th of January 2016 in Ekeremor Town, Ekeremor LGA, the home town of Hon. **Heinekein Lokpobiri (incumbent Minister of State for Agriculture)**, a mob of over 300 APC members dressed in black attire attacked the Governors Lodge Ekeremor, vandalized and looted the lodge and brutalized the officials in the lodge.

The victims of that attack included:

- **Rt. Hon. Boyelayefa Debekeme** former Speaker of the State House of Assembly.
- **Capt Tony Mezeh** Senior Special Assistant to the Governor of Security.
- **Hon. Billy Tobiye** Chairman of Ekeremor LGA and
- **Tams Alari.**

The militia also besieged the town brandishing several types of weapons and unleashed barbaric violence on PDP supporters in their path.

The following were injured from gunshot wounds; **David Bakumor, Asi Custom, Godsdag Agbere, Lawrence Ojokai, Peter Omagbemi, Steven Dio, Tony Sunday, Morris Musa while Ekankumo Owei** and **Roland Yinkore** died as a result of gunshots.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation

EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: EKEREMOR TOWN (EKEREMOR LGA)

Name of Victim: **Rt. Hon. Boyelayefa Debekeme**

(Former Speaker, Bayelsa State House of Assembly)

A mob of over 300 APC members dressed in black attire attacked the Governor's Lodge Ekeremor Town, brutalized the former Speaker and afflicted machete cuts on his right hand and other parts of his body.



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EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: EKEREMOR TOWN (EKEREMOR LGA)

Name of Victim: **Hon. Billy Tobiyei.**

(Current Chairman Ekeremor LGA)

A mob of over 300 APC supporters dressed in black attire attacked the Governor's Lodge Ekeremor Town, beat up the LGA Chairman, inflicted injuries on him, robbed him and looted the lodge.



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation

EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: EKEREMOR TOWN (EKEREMOR LGA)

Name of Victim: **Mr. Tam Alari.**

A mob of over 300 APC members dressed in black attire attacked the Governor's Lodge Ekeremor Town, brutalized him and he sustained machete cuts to the head.



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EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: EKEREMOR TOWN (EKEREMOR LGA)

Name of Victim: **Captain Tony Mezeh rtd.**

(Senior Special Assistant to the Bayelsa State Governor on Security Matters)

Capt Mezeh (rtd). was attacked and brutalized by the same APC mob. He sustained injuries to his eyes and ears.



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation

EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: EKEREMOR TOWN (EKEREMOR LGA)

Name of Victim: **Mr. Simeon Otor.**

Simeon Otor was murdered by APC thugs via gunshot to the body in Ekeremor Town, Ekeremor LGA. The was corpse was deposited at Oboro Mortuary, Burutu in Delta State.



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation

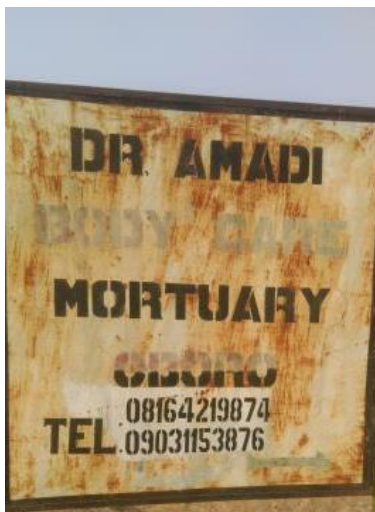
EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: EKEREMOR TOWN (EKEREMOR LGA)

Name of Victim: **Mr. Roland Yinkore.**

Roland Yinkore was murdered by APC thugs via gunshot to the body in Ekeremor Town, Ekeremor LGA. He has since been buried at Isama, Bomadi LGA in Delta State.



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PEREMOBOWEI JONAH

LOCATION: EKEREMOR TOWN

Azuzuware Quarters,
Ekeremor Town,
Ekeremor L.G.A.,
Bayelsa State.
18th January, 2016.

The Chairperson,
Bayelsa State Judicial Commission
of Enquiry of Electoral Violence,
Yenagoa.

Sir/Madam,

**REPORT ON THE VIOLENT DISPLAY OF APC MEMBERS
DURING THE SUPPLEMENTARY RERUN ELECTION IN
EKEREMOR ON THE 9TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2016 AND
THE NEED FOR NECESSARY ACTION**

Predicted upon the fact that the All Progressives Congress (APC) was going to be defeated a second time in the re-scheduled supplementary rerun election in Ekeremor, the home town of **Sen. Heineken Lokpobiri**, the Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, there was a resurgence of violence orchestrated by the said Minister and his imported retinue of armed gangsters. Three days prior to the scheduled date for the supplementary rerun election, more than 500 thugs arrived Ekeremor and trooped into Lokpobiri's compound, preparatory to carry out election violence against members of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) on the D-Day.

Arms and ammunition which were brought into Lokpobiri's compound, were disguised amidst food items meant for the imported gangsters. A silent procession of about 300 armed persons along the major road of Ekeremor led by **Tecko Lokpobiri** and **Paul Ebibokefie** of the All Progressives Congress (APC) took place, commencing from Lokpobiri's compound at about 8:30pm on the 7th day of



EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PEREMOBOWEI JONAH contd.

LOCATION: EKEREMOR TOWN

January, 2016. At about 12:21am in the midnight, there were terrifying sounds of gunshots from Lokpobiri's compound that made the whole community to be apprehensive about uncertainties of life.

This **Tecko Lokpobiri**-led group which involves **Macauley Ofiyou, Paul Ebibokefie, Venus Amasuomor, Emizibo Love, Damas Lokoja, Isaac Lokpobiri** and others attacked the Governor's Lodge in Ekeremor and caused serious injuries on **Tam Alari, S.S.A** to the Governor on Political matters, **Rt. Hon. Boyelayefa Debekeme**, Former Speaker, Bayelsa State House of Assembly and **Hon. Billy Tobiyei**, Chairman, Ekeremor L.G.A. at about 9:14am in the following morning, while they were advancing to the INEC Office to hijack electoral materials at the instance of **Heineken Lokpobiri**. However, they were forced to retreat by the firm reaction of the Security Personnel on ground. They shot at the window glasses of the Governor's Lodge, forced their way in and destroyed expensive items, and also damaged government property at the Local Government Council premises.

The action of the armed mob threatened the existing peace of Ekeremor and its environs at large to a great extent. On the eve of the supplementary election, the imported retinue of armed gangsters led by **Tecko Lokpobiri** and **Paul Ebibokefie** besieged the whole community and there was a moment of panic everywhere. Subsequently, special search for PDP supporters with sounds of sporadic gunshots by the armed gangsters took place. This was eventually followed by heavy gunfire which held siege of people in their houses and others running helter-skelter for momentary hideouts.

Sounds of rapid series of gunshots were endless throughout the whole night. At dawn on the re-scheduled supplementary election day, one **Macauley Ofiyou** led a heavily armed team to attack Jonah's compound close to



EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PEREMOBOWEI JONAH contd.

LOCATION: EKEREMOR TOWN

Government Secondary School, Ekeremor with the intent to kill **Hon. Pius Jonah**, Governor's Representative, Ekeremor L.G.A., **Peremobowei Jonah**, **Preye Okoyen**, Chairman, Ekeremor Community, **Hon. James Ombeh**, Permanent Secretary, Ekeremor Community, **Mienbi Africa Angalabiri (Esq)**, **Seraph Portuguese**, **Gowon Ebimienkumor**, **Akpabio Emomoemi** and **Fedude Abeokuta**, having heard an information about their presence therein, being very staunch supporters of PDP and the Restoration Government of **Seriake Dickson**. Fortunately, God was so kind that no one was found at the scene of the attack.

According to eyewitnesses, **Tamarauyekedimien Isampou-owei**, **Alexender Toruya** and **Omiki Seidu**, the invaders came into the compound at about 6:30am in the morning and took on a fusillade of bullets at buildings separately belonging to **Pius Jonah**, **Peremobowei Jonah** and **Owei-ere Jonah** for about 22 minutes, which had the walls and doors of the houses bearing signs of bullet effects, and also had window glasses severely shattered with bullets. A thorough and close look at the attached copies of photos is evident of the tragic scenario. The eyewitnesses who sighted them through a transparent window glass managed to escape from the building via a backdoor escape route into the bush, in order to save their lives.

As election materials were shared and distributed to the nine polling units in Ekeremor for the supplementary rerun election, members of the **Macauley Ofiyu**-led sinister gang segmented themselves into squads of 5-man each and took over every polling unit with arms. This followed with an attendant sporadic gunfire which scared away people from coming out to cast their votes for PDP. The gangsters echoed loud and clear to everybody's hearing, saying: "if you know that you will not vote for APC, remain



EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PEREMOBOWEI JONAH contd.

LOCATION: EKEREMOR TOWN

where you are. Only those who are ready to vote for APC should come out to the polling units and vote". Security agents who were around did not challenge this ugly situation and you may wish to give your own conclusion on their disposition.

The PDP supporters, being lovers of peace, only drew the attention of INEC Officials and election observers for possible solution of cancellation of all the supplementary election polling units in Ekeremor, which was eventually generally applauded. Most of these culprits are beneficiaries of the Amnesty Programme, and also Civil Servants under various governmental agencies in the State. Some police Aides to **Heineken Lokpobiri**, the Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, who are also indigenes of Ekeremor community were found in the act of aiding and abetting the gangsters in their registered various polling units. The unbearable sight at **Brazil Gas** and **David Mabiko** of the Nigerian Police was disgusting and deserves a very serious reprimand for their unprofessional behaviour by the appropriate authorities.

It is my humble submission that the perpetrators of these heinous acts can never go unpunished. I therefore call on the appropriate authorities and security agencies to bring the perpetrators to book according to the laws of the land.

Thanks for your peace-loving gesture.

Yours faithfully,



PEREMOBOWEI JONAH

*PDP Youth Leader,
Ward 8, Ekeremor.*

Cc:

1. His Excellency,
Hon. Henry Seriake Dickson,

EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PEREMOBOWEI JONAH contd.


LOCATION: EKEREMOR TOWN

Executive Governor,
Bayelsa State.

2. The Commissioner of Police,
Bayelsa State,
Yenagoa.
3. The SSS Director,
Bayelsa State,
Yenagoa.
4. C.S.O
Government House,
Bayelsa State.
5. S.S.A,
To
The Bayelsa State,
Governor,
On Electronic Media.
6. P.S.O
To
The Governor.

sir,

Above is for your information and necessary action, please.

Yours faithfully,

PEREMOBOWEI JONAH
PDP Youth Leader,
Ward 8, Ekeremor.
G.S.M. No. 08030966140.

EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PEREMOBOWEI JONAH contd.

LOCATION: EKEREMOR TOWN



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation

EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PEREMOBOWEI JONAH contd.

LOCATION: EKEREMOR TOWN



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation

EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PEREMOBOWEI JONAH contd.

LOCATION: EKEREMOR TOWN



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation

EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PEREMOBOWEI JONAH contd.
LOCATION: EKEREMOR TOWN



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation

EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PEREMOBOWEI JONAH contd.

LOCATION: EKEREMOR TOWN



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation

EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PEREMOBOWEI JONAH contd.

LOCATION: EKEREMOR TOWN



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation

EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PEREMOBOWEI JONAH contd.

LOCATION: EKEREMOR TOWN



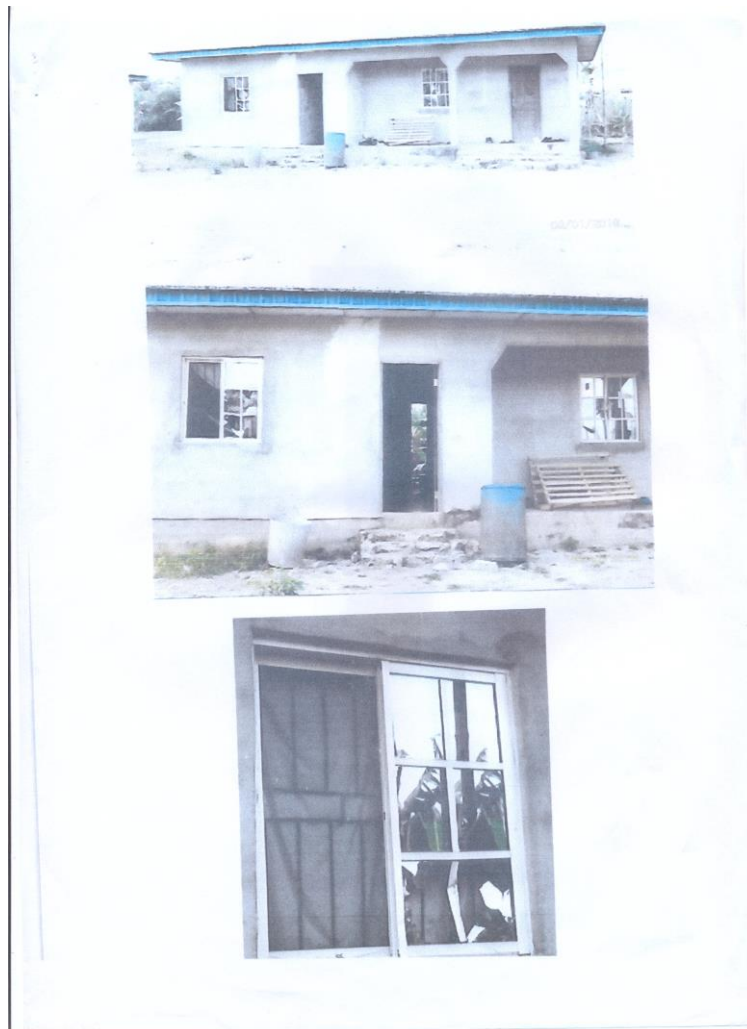
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EKEREMOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

VICTIM: PEREMOBOWEI JONAH contd.

LOCATION: EKEREMOR TOWN



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL WITNESS WHOSE BROTHER WAS SHOT BEFORE THE JANUARY 9TH ELECTIONS AND THE JTF REFUSED TO ASSIST

VICTIM: NICHOLAS EBIYE (Bassambri, Nembe LGA)

“On Friday 8th January 2016 at about 3pm, myself and my younger brother Hon. Nimi Kerema went home for the elections. On getting to Chief James Jephther’s house, we saw some boys in black coming and they immediately started shooting and my brother ran pass me and shouted that they have shot me.

I sought the rescue of the army but the army told us to leave their premises. I insisted by telling them that they have shot my brother; after some time, they brought him and dropped him in front of the JTF yet the JTF refused them access. They came back realizing that we are not armed and shot the other five people. I started making calls for first aid from the Nembe General Hospital but later, Senator Amange called and said he is sending the Civil Defense to our rescue with the others that were shot.

The Civil Defense came and took us down to the Nembe General Hospital and took him and the rest to Yenagoa for proper treatment. As I speak to you right now he is lying in a critical state in the hospital”.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ...

VICTIM: NICHOLAS EBIYE contd.

The APC hoodlums/thugs that shot at my brother are known faces, one **Biokpomoye Nicholas**, my younger brother was amongst them, **Oyepamokuma Saturday, Sinte Oyinfiewakuma, Thomas Aboki, Felix Eferebo** with others.

Thomas Aboki came back and set the Chief's house ablaze, it was the JTF that came and quenched the fire. Nothing has been done to bring this boys to book; we can't even go home because of the threat believing they have the federal might to protect them.

These APC thugs after shooting my brother went into my house and destroyed it. They say Timipre Sylva, the APC candidate is President Buhari's first son and that he will protect them. Anybody can do anything as far as you are APC.

I am afraid of going home because of the fear of these boys parading themselves in the community and they are unquestionable."



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

VICTIM: NICHOLAS EBIYE contd.

On the 8th of January 2016 at about 3pm, some key APC chieftains namely *Mr Fyne Ikierigha, Kodjo Sam, Bishop Degi Eremienyo and Chief Ikanawori Igoma* mobilized weapons and APC thugs to unleash violence on PDP supporters.

Chief Fente Abrakasa (aka Abanga) a former staff and contractor of AGIP Oil, was reported to have ordered the shooting of PDP supporters in Nembe Bassambiri, Nembe LGA of Bayelsa State.

Five PDP supporters were shot by marauding APC thugs led **Biokpomoye Nicholas, Saturday Oyepalmokuma Saturday, Sinte Oyenifemokuma, Thomas Aboki and Felix Eferebo, Pereyun Eneki, Kpokiri Victor and Panya Degi** all dressed in black under the prying eyes of army officers of the JTF stationed at the mini stadium at the centre of the community.

The victims fled to the JTF Base for safety but were denied cover and the military also refused to repel the attackers. They turned back every one including pregnant women, children and men who sought refuge there. The JTF however advised the PDP members to look for arms themselves and fight back. Thomas Aboki personally set ablaze the house of Chief James Jephthah where the fleeing PDP members sought refuge.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

VICTIM: NICHOLAS EBIYE contd.

The injured persons, women and children were finally rescued by Civil Defense personnel and the military from the neighbouring community of Ogolomabiri sent by a PDP chieftain and a Nembe Chief, Senator Nimi Barigha Amange.

The shot persons include; *Nicholas Sampson, Oweiga Clement, Opiriye Iyala, Princewill Takubo and Joseph John*. The victims were later moved to the Nembe General Hospital at Igopiri and eventually transferred to the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa. They went through blood transfusion before surgical operations were carried out to extract several bullets from them.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI (NEMBE LGA)

Name of Victim: **Mr. Nicholas Sampson**

One of the five PDP supporters shot by APC thugs under the prying eyes of of the JTF. Gunshot to the right thigh.



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NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI (NEMBE LGA)
Name of Victim: **Mr. Oweigha Clement**



One of the five PDP supporters shot by APC thugs under the prying eyes of JTF. Gunshot to the left thigh.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI (NEMBE LGA)

Name of Victim: **Mr. Opiriye Iyalla**



One of the five PDP supporters shot by APC thugs under the prying eyes of JTF. Gunshot to the chest.

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NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI (NEMBE LGA)

Name of Victim: **Mr. Princewill Takubo**

One of the five PDP supporters shot by APC thugs under the prying eyes of of JTF.
Gunshot to the left thigh.



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NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI (**NEMBE LGA**)

Name of Victim: **Mr. Joseph John**

One of the five PDP supporters shot by APC thugs under the prying eyes of of JTF. Gunshot to the back.



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NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI (NEMBE LGA)

Name of Victim: Unknown



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI (NEMBE LGA)
Name of Victim: **Oweigha Clement**



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI (NEMBE LGA)

Name of Victim: **Oweigha Clement**



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI (NEMBE LGA)

Name of Victim: Unknown



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI (NEMBE LGA)

Name of Victim: Unknown



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI (NEMBE LGA)

Name of Victim: Unknown



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI



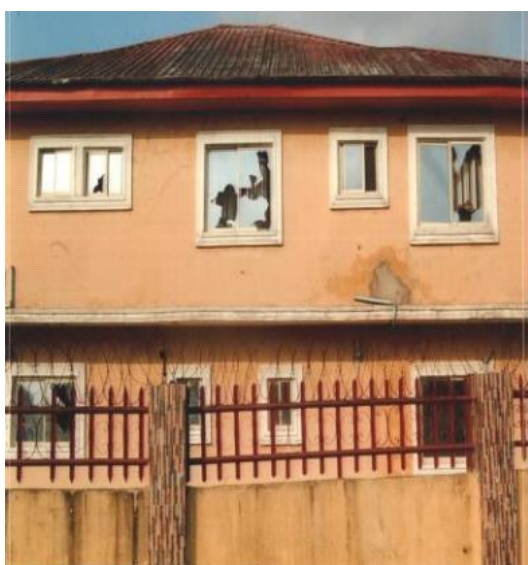
"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI



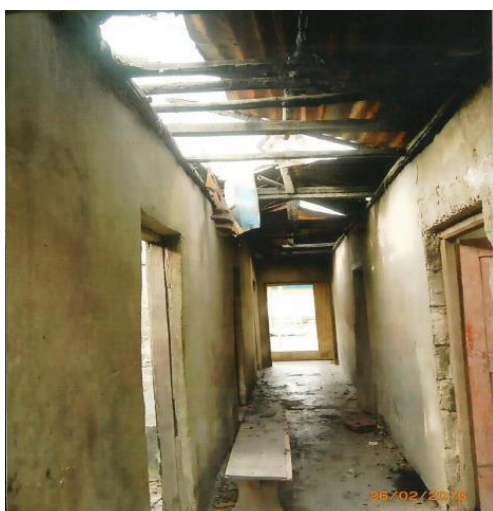
"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: BASSAMBRI



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



NEMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Name of Victim: Pastor Beinmo Jonah

Another incidence of pre-election violence was the attack on Pastor Beinmo Jonah - the younger brother of the Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State, Rear Admiral Gboribiogha John Jonah (Rtd). Pastor Jonah, a University lecturer, also narrowly escaped death when he was attacked by three APC thugs in his Yenagoa residence.

This happened two days to the Dec. 5, 2015 Governorship Elections.



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

CHIEF NOEL MESHACK IBILA

“...The day Ogunboss entered the community tension started, he brought in ammunitions from Ogbia axis through hand-pulling canoes which we saw ourselves.

So during the the day of election, security personnel were there, they even escorted him. Most especially the army. I took Ward eight 8 voting materials and ran away. After which we called government house and the Ward 8 eight election was cancelled. After the supplementary election, the PDP was announced as the winner.

After the announcement we took to the streets to celebrate as PDP members. While we were celebrating, we heard gunshots from afar. That was how the whole thing happened. We were not bent on fighting anybody and we didn't have guns or machetes so we decided to maintain peace with our Highness, not knowing that Ogunboss had already arranged with an informant within us who was feeding him with information.

That was how they came and shot our Highness. It was Ogunboss himself who did that but he was in the midst of group of people. But it was Ogunboss who shot him. Women and children were with us before the incidence but they later ran into hiding after the gunshots.”

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

ALAMENE WILLIAMS WILFRED Former Commissioner of Lands and Survey From: Forupa Community

“...When Ounbose landed the jetty he started with gunshots in front of the military personnel, he was having a pistol and shooting but nobody stopped him. He went to the INEC office came out just like that.

So when I looked at the whole calculation and saw that we had more population than them and if at all those materials were distributed when we are going to win so that was when they came up with this idea of shooting.

Not shooting towards the sky but sporadically. That was when as you can see in those pictures you have a lot of persons were dropped dead, just like that.

Those that was admitted at the Glory land hospital were about fifteen of them because I was working with the then chief of staff, Joshua and myself. In fact I was working with them so we had fifteen of them admitted.

We have their names, phone numbers, their communities...”

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Southern Ijaw LGA, the Local Government of the APC chairman, Chief Tiwe Orunimighe witnessed the most gruesome acts of violence recorded in the Bayelsa Governoship Elections.

A number of people were reported killed, maimed and properties destroyed in the internecine crises

This spate of violence was recorded both in the December 5th and January 9th elections. The coastal community of Peremabiri was worst hit.

Reports of post-election violence in that community reveal that the town is presently under seige by ex-militants and cultist who chased the residents out of the community.

The militia was led by a certain Paul Eris also known as Gen Ogunboss, an Ex militant.

On Tuesday, 5th January 2016, Paul Eris, aka Gen Ogunboss invaded the community with gun wielding militia and men dressed in military uniform shooting sporadically in the air.

He forcefully took over the community and positioned his militia in every nook and cranny of the town.

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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

At about 6:30pm on the 10th of January 2016 after the elections, Gen Ogunboss led his heavily-armed militia to the village square in Peremabiri to sporadically shoot at members of the PDP who were celebrating the results that were just being announced.

The Paramount Ruler of the community, HRH Prosper Never-Die was shot in the head by the Gen Ogunboss-led-militia and several residents of the community received several gunshot and machete wounds.

A number of deaths were equally recorded in the invasion as residents fled from the rampaging militia into the creeks, swamps and neighbouring communities while property worth millions of Naira were destroyed and burnt by the rampaging militia who sacked the community.

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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA



PAUL ERIS aka GEN OGUNBOSS

The Victims: In Peremabiri there were several victims with various degrees of injuries ranging from machete cuts to gunshot wounds. They include; **Mr. Cooler Simon** (machete cut to the head), **Mugabe Daniel** and **Emmanuel Nicholas** (gunshot wounds) amongst others.

Mrs. Victory Wasini, a young mother of 5 (five) lost her one year and three-month old baby during the ferocious attack on the Peremabiri community by the Gen. Ogunboss-led- militia

Mrs. Godgift, told the shocking story of how her son, **Isaac Godgift** was killed. He was beheaded by the attackers and his body dumped in the river.

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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

REGION: OPOROAMA (SOUTHERN IJAW LGA)

APC stalwart Mr. Foncha Ekeuwei and brother of former SSG Chief Gideon Ekeuwei under Governor Timipre Sylva's administration on Saturday December 5th was arrested along with APC thugs by the the Army, "(Operation Safe Conduct),under Brig. Gen. Stepheson Olabanji. They arrested 17 suspected thugs with arms and 30 stolen Permanent Voters Cards (PVC).



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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

REGION: OPOROAMA (SOUTHERN IJAW LGA) Contd....



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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Presently, the Samson Siasia Sports Complex, Yenagoa, has become an IDP Camp.

It currently accommodates about two hundred IDPs from Peremabiri Community in Southern Ijaw LGA, who were sacked from their homes by the ex-militant Ogunboss, shortly after the Jan. 9th 2016 Governorship re-run polls.

Chairman, Peremabiri Council of Chiefs, **Chief Noel Meshack Igbila**, and other stakeholders in the camp, comprising **Chief Georgewill Ingbi, Mugabe Daniel, Suoton Charles**, a youth leader; **Kingdom Lawyer**, Special Assistant to the fatally-injured Paramount Ruler of Peremabiri Community; **Pere Elako**, amongst others, all consented to the fact that the attacks were pre-meditated and well-hatched by Gen Ogunbos to unleash mayhem on the PDP supporters in the community.

The following are a select few amongst several other recorded cases of deaths and violence from the Southern Ijaw Local Government;

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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: DIEBU WARD 8(SOUTHERN IJAW LGA)
Name of Victim: Mr. Abule

On Sunday December 6, after the voting exercise of the December 5th elections as the PDP agents returned home from Oporoma, armed APC thugs in two boats ambushed a boat ferrying PDP agents between Agobiri and Angamabri shot sporadically at them and submerged their boat.

Mr Abule died of gunshot wounds and his corpse was found 3 days later floating in the River Nun.



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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: APOI (SOUTHERN IJAW LGA)

Name of Victim: Aaron Awudu - (Aged 36 years and was married with six children).

After the January 9th election , as INEC declared the result that PDP had won in the community , Charles Korobo Ayibatari a relative of the deceased, came out with some of his boys armed with AK47 and went into the school where INEC materials were kept. They opened fire on PDP supporters who ran for their lives to the neighbouring Ogbembiri, but unfortunately Aaron Duoya Awudu, a PDP faithful died from gunshot wounds.



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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: PEREMABIRI (SOUTHERN IJAW LGA)

Name of Victim: HRH Prosper Never-Die (Paramount Ruler of Peremabiri Community)

The picture below shows gunshot wounds to the head inflicted on the victim by rampaging APC militia led by Gen Ogunboss on 10th of January, 2016. His palace was vandalized and burnt down by the APC-led militia.



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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: PEREMABIRI (SOUTHERN IJAW LGA)
Name of Victim: Mr. Newman Ekpoedimono.

Gunshot injury to the knee on January 10th 2016.



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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: PEREMABIRI (SOUTHERN IJAW LGA)

Name of Victim: Mr. Mugabe Daniel.

Gunshot to the buttocks on January 10th 2016.



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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: PEREMABIRI (SOUTHERN IJAW LGA)

Name of Victim: **Mr. Emmanuel Nicholas.**

Recovering from Gunshot wounds to the chest on January 10th 2016.



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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: PEREMABIRI (SOUTHERN IJAW LGA)

Name of Victim: Mr. Cooler Simon.



Recovering from machete cut to the head on January 10th 2016

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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: PEREMABIRI (SOUTHERN IJAW LGA)

Name of Victim: **Joseph Maciavar**

Victim of gunshot through the ribs on December 5th 2015



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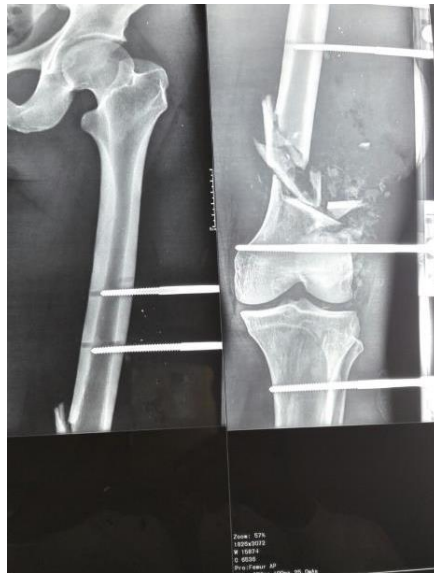


SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: **SOUTHERN IJAW LGA**
Name of Victim: **Mr. Godbless Douglas**

Gunshot to the left thigh on December 5th 2015



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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: **SOUTHERN IJAW LGA**
Name of Victim: **Mr. William Prince**

Gunshot to the right shoulder with multiple open fractures to the left arm on December 5th 2015.



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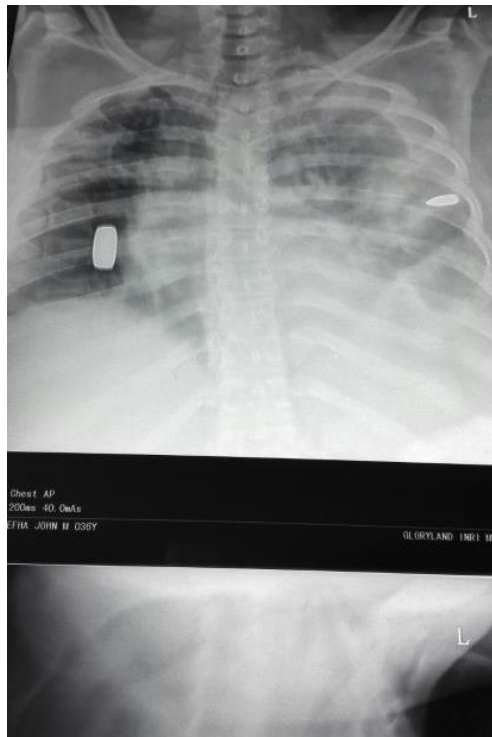


SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: **SOUTHERN IJAW LGA**

Name of Victim: **Mr. Animiyeffa John**



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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: PEREMABIRI (SOUTHERN IJAW LGA)

Name of Victim: **Mrs. Godgift**



Mother of Late Isaac Godgift. Her son was brutally murdered on the 10th of January 2016. His headless body was recovered a few days later on the banks of River Nun.

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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: PEREMABIRI (SOUTHERN IJAW LGA)

More victims of Electoral Violence and Gunshot/machete on Jan.10, 2016



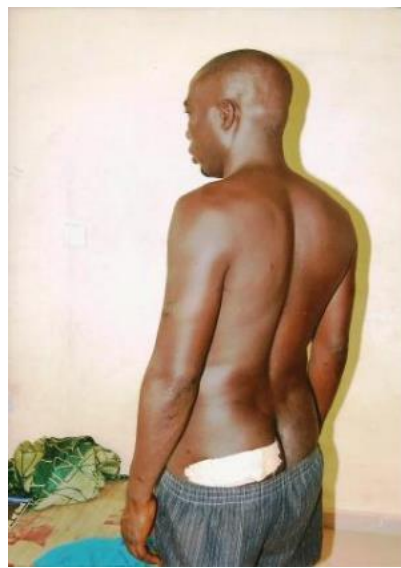
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SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: PEREMABIRI (SOUTHERN IJAW LGA)



"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation



SOUTHERN IJAW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: PEREMABIRI (SOUTHERN IJAW LGA)



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ATTACHMENTS:

The following reference documentation in respect of the above-detailed report is attached on the pages hereafter:

- 1. #SaveSouthernIjaw: Bayelsa Voters Must Be Allowed To Choose Their Governor**
- 2. Group wants military to stay out of Bayelsa supplementary polls**
- 3. Southern Ijaw: Group wants military out of Bayelsa polls**

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#SaveSouthernIjaw: Bayelsa Voters Must Be Allowed To Choose Their Governor



[Komolafe El-Hannan .O.](#) — Jan 4, 2016 4:49 pm | [Leave a comment](#)

A group of concerned Bayelsa indigenes and stakeholders today launched a sensitisation campaign on the need for free, fair and credible supplementary election on Saturday, January 9, 2016.

Unveiling the #SaveSouthernIjaw campaign in Abuja, the spokesperson of the group, Mr Femi Lawson, said the campaign was aimed at preventing the recurrence of the violence and military interference that marred the December governorship election in Bayelsa State.

“We are trying to create awareness to make sure the Nigerian public rise up in defence of democracy. The event of the last election was nothing encouraging; and it sends a very dangerous signal to the growth of democracy in our nation.

“We want to make sure everyone stands up for what is right and kick against the militarisation of elections in Bayelsa and in any other state for that matter... this election is going to be a major indices to measure our readiness as a nation to advance from where were between 2011 and 2015.

“Democracy should be advancing not retrogressing. This is why we are at the Unity Fountain, and will be here for the next three days to continue the advocacy campaign for free and fair elections in Nigeria, and ensure people are not intimidated at any point in time once they are out to vote,” Femi Lawson said.

Group wants military to stay out of Bayelsa supplementary polls

By Ademola Adebayo | Publish Date: Jan 4 2016 5:23PM



A coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on Monday staged a peaceful rally at the Unity Fountain in Abuja calling on the nation's security agencies to review its strategies for the January 9th supplementary election in Southern Ijaw and other units of the State.

The group under the banner of Save Southern Ijaw decried what it called 'militarization of elections' by the nation's security agencies and called for a review of strategy for the upcoming supplementary elections in the state.

Coordinator of the group Comrade Femi Lawson said the police most especially have the statutory role of providing security during any election and as such the military should not be involved in any of the electoral processes.

"Any attempt by the military to manipulate the electoral process will be resisted by Nigerians. We

are saying that as Nigerians, we cannot allow our country to slip back into the era of do or die politics. Elections in Nigeria is supposed to be a civil process and the people must be allowed to choose their leaders,” he said.

He lamented that what happened at the last governorship election in Bayelsa state was not a true reflection of the wishes of the Bayelsa electorate as most voters were harassed and intimidated by the military.

“We saw a situation where people were intimidated by the use of force against harmless civilians. We therefore call on the security apparatus of government to allow Bayelsans to choose their leaders in a free, fair and credible atmosphere.”

Supplementary elections come up in Southern Ijaw and other parts of Bayelsa state on Saturday the 9th of January, following a declaration by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) that the election was marred with violence, abduction of electoral officials and ballot box snatching, thus rendering it inconclusive.

Read more at <http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/news/general/group-wants-military-to-stay-out-of-bayelsa-supplementary-polls/127245.html#hMbXGKehEi3CiH0I.99>

Southern Ijaw: Group wants military out of Bayelsa polls

Mr. Olufemi Lawson said that he had first-hand information of the use of the military to harass the electorate.



Sylva vs Dickson

A civil society coalition, National Frontiers, has embarked on a sit out till Sunday January 10 2016 at the Unity Fountain, Abuja on the militarisation and manipulation of election in Nigeria with focus on the forthcoming governorship election in Southern Ijaw LGA of Bayelsa State.

The National Coordinator of the coalition, Olufemi Lawson said on Tuesday that as a member of the Election Monitoring Group in the December 5 governorship election in Bayelsa State, he had firsthand information of the use of the military to harass the electorate.

He emphasized that the Nigerian Police should be allowed to take charge of the election while the military can serve in the back ground rather than intimidating voters.

"Military were seen aiding and abetting people who are perpetrating electoral violence in Bayelsa State.

“The military must not been seen carrying election materials with militants.

“Election is a civil process and people must be allowed to choose the leader of their choice without intimidation”, Lawson said.

He also said that it is an indictment on the military for civilians to be on military uniform perpetrating evil in broad day light.

“It is in course of this the group called on the Federal Government to ensure the re-run is void of intimidation from the military as election is supposed to be a civil process.

The coalition said that election must be free and fair.

They kicked against what happened in the Southern Ijaw on the 5th of December where the military aided hijacking of election materials.

He called on the youths not to be allowed to be used for electoral violence as he said no life must be sacrificed for election.

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YENAGOA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Region: FAMGBE COMMUNITY; YENAGOA LGA.

ANDY TOBI

“My name is Andy Tobi from Famgbe Community in Yenagoa L.G.A. I served as PDP Unit Agent in Unit 008 in Famgbe Community.

On the 5th of December 2015, elections were peaceful until about 4pm we had a gun shot twice from Sini Bonny from Famgbe community, immediately I told the Police man that I can no longer stay in this community. Thugs were brought by Osomkime Blankson to hijack electoral materials but were stopped by us. On our way going, this same boy that shot the gun, shot the Police man in his waist, so I called the D.P.O. The D.P.O refused me to explain but started shouting saying I have killed his officer but the Police man was rushed to the hospital.

The supervising officers whose contact is with me said I should call him to testify if need be in a court. The day we had our re-run I saw the thugs that shot the Police officer walking freely in the community. He is even working with the Niger Delta University.

On the 9th of January, the Famgbe community was flooded with thugs from neighboring Communities they are known faces. One Agbiakeme Bekebo, Osomkime Blackson, Sikaro.

My life was in danger from recent threats coming from Osomkime Blackson.

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YENAGOA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

REPORT OF ELECTORAL VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY APC MEMBERS AGAINST PDP MEMBERS IN FAMGBE TOWN, WARD 2 YENAGOA, BAYELSA STATE.

- A. 5th December, 2015.
1. One Sinizibe Bonny, an APC faithful and a thug to one Osonikime Blankson shot a police man attached to secure the election in unit 008.
 2. Famvie Bekebo (Alias Agbiakime) of the APC who is a thug to Osonikime Blankson at unit 006, attacked Pulu Zifawei and tore his clothes and collected money.
- B. 6th January 2016.
1. On the 6th of January 2016, Osonikime Blackson and his APC group in Famgbe brought police headed by DSP Oguche, the O'C Anti vice and arrested Tolomome Ayibateke, Fred Pelesai and Appah Tobi who are all PDP faithful and threatened them and made them sign undertaking not to go to the Venue of the Election on the 9th of January.
- C. 9th January, 2016.
1. Osonikime Blankson and Honourable Alfred Egba brought thugs to Famgbe Community and in particular brought Preye Agama alias Sigaro who came to unit 006 and beat unity Bekebo and Wisdom Agbasa who are all of the PDP.
 2. Sako Agibateke also known as Akpako and a group of thugs brought by Osonikime Blankson and Alfred Egba beat Gift Otobo and Ayakime John Oyowei and collected their phones and money.

Dated the 15th.....day of MARCH.....2016.

Signed

1. Andy Tobi
- 2.

#

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YENAGOA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Region: IKOLO COMMUNITY; YENAGOA LGA. NEWTON PETER

I am Newton Peter from Ikolo community in Yenagoa L.G.A. On the 26th of November, 2015 at Ikolo was the day APC member flagged off their campaign after dancing and drinking between 7 and 8pm one Zemon Egba mentioned the name of my son saying my Son Menoze Peter would not dare him by removing the APC flag not quit some hours, someone ran to me and said my son has been attacked by thugs at the river front.

On getting to the river I saw no sign of my son so I used my boat to trace where they had taken my son to. I saw some boys around the bush, as soon as they noticed I was calling the police, they ran. I went home and came back prepared to look for my son, I immediately hid myself and saw a known face by name Brizibe the younger brother of Zemon and I started shouting his name. Immediately, Zemon attacked me saying his brother is not part of the killings.

I reported the case to the Police on the 27th of November and we are about taking the autopsy after seeing the corpse around 5pm on the 27th. The thugs that attacked my son are known faces, I know four of them. The Government should come to my aid by bringing these boys to book.

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YENAGOA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

NEWTON PETER...

IKOLO TOWN
YENAGOA
BAYELSA STATE
20TH JANAUARY, 2016.

THE CHAIRMAN,
JUDICIARY,
BAYELSA STATE.

SIR,

**A PETITION AGAINST ONE MR. ZEMON EGBA, BRISBA PAUL AND
BOYBLINK IDESI** *FOR BAYELSA STATE*

I humbly submit this petition in your office in respect of the Criminal Act what the said mention person did at Ikolo on the 26th day of November, 2015. This said persons suspected of killing one **MR. MENIWOZE PETER** who is the PDP Youth Leader at Ikolo Town at about 10-11:pm in the night after when the APC has put their flag at Ikolo Waterfront between 7pm-8pm, Mr. Zemon Egba was accusing the PDP Youth Leader **MR. MENIWOZE PETER** promised to remove that flag. The person going to deal with the person. As he was saying so, I now went there, and I said, no person should not remove this flag in the night and said, it was my son **MR. MENIWOZE PETER** (the PDP Youth Leader) that remove the flag. I shout up to three times before I went to my house.

After two to three hours, two women ran to tell me that your son is at the river shouting and there is a gun shot at the waterfront so every body was running away. In that processes, I and my wife now ran to the waterfront and we didn't see anybody. The whole town became quite, I now went back to the house and carried engine to the boat and we now drive to the southern part of Ikolo where we saw some group of people with touch light, I now tell the driver to stop the engine, after stopping the engine, I now said, officers I have seen the people that came to terrorize Ikolo, so when they heard my voice, they took off. After some few minutes when we are floating in the river, I told the driver to drive to the place we saw them, which the driver did, when we branch at the place, I have to shout again.

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YENAGOA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA



mentioning the PDP Youth Leader name **MR. MENIWOZE PETER** that anywhere you are in this bush, you should come out I shouted up to five times no responds We have to go back to the village, because they have kill my son I said, we now left for the village.

So unreachng the village, I told the driver to wait for me in the boat to wear my rain bout and after that, we went back to look for him again, as I reach my house, I put on my shirt and rain bout and as I was coming back to the boat, I saw a group of people running towards me it was there, I entered into a block that was packed and the moon light was shining, all of them with black shirt, so I saw all of them passing and the last person was walking, I now said, is it not Brisba Paul? So when he became close to me, I now moved out to met him and said, Brisba Paul you follow those people who kill my son? he didn't answered me, rather walked away, so at that instance I started shouting his name, as am going Mr. Zemon Egba stopped me and said Brisba Paul is not among the people that kill your son and a man by name Iron gate and others came to separate us, I now said Mr. Zemon Egba, you are the one treating my son to remove APC filing and you are here again this night, I accused him immediately. Later on I went back to look for my son that night, I couldn't find him, I came back to the village and in the morning. I now went to Police (A Division) to report the matter for arrest, and we went, we couldn't see anybody. After the police have left, we now went back to the river and found the dead body, and immediately we sent the dead body to the police and police took the dead body to the mortuary.

EVERY TIME THIS TWO MEN WERE PROMISE TO KILL
So am crying to the State government to come to my aid and investigate this matter.


Yours sincerely,


NEWTON PETER

07033254366

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YENAGOA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FACTS & EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Region: IKOLO COMMUNITY (YENAGOA LGA)

Name of Victim: Menoze Peter



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CHAPTER 4

HISTORICAL FINDINGS RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN BAYELSA STATE

4.1 - The Atrocities of Operation Famou Tangbei (OFT) Under Chief Timipre Sylva

4.2 - Senator Heineken Lokpobiri - The self-styled 'Hitler of Ekeremor Politics'

4.3 - The Gory Story of Hon. Israel Sunny Goli (a.k.a Adi)

4.4 - Munalayefa 'Don' Gibson – The Grand Master of Terrorism

4.5 - Ossom Blankson – Uncommon Expertise in Mobilizing Thugs

4.6 - Paul Eris a.k.a. Gen. Ogunboss – Old Habits Never Die

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4.1 THE STORY OF OPERATION FAMOU TANGBEI (OFT)

- Its Atrocities Under Chief Timipre Sylva

INTRODUCTION

It is a known fact that true democracy will make possible the full enjoyment of Human Rights. However, the enabling ground and environment that will make this possible is an environment of peace, tranquillity and security.

As we are also aware, the primary purpose of a government is the security, welfare, well-being and happiness of the people or citizens residing in its territorial confines. Apart from the provision of the Nigerian Constitution which says that ‘the security of the citizen shall be primary responsibility of government, various international charters and treaties to which Nigerian is signatory imposed similar obligation on the Nigerian Government, including the federating States’.

As with every other obligations imposed by international charter or treaty, the Nigerian Government is not only bound to refrain from violating the Security and Safety of the citizens, it is equally bound to take positive and specific steps to address security issues once they emerge.

It will be an extreme academic exercise to go into any definition of the term “security”. It is convenient to borrow the descriptive perspective of the term “Security” by the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights. In its interpretation of right to security, the African Commission describes the rights to security to include “national and individual security”.

According to the African Commission “national security examines how the state protects the physical integrity of its citizens from external threats, such as invasion, terrorism and violence”. Individual security on the other hand can be looked at in two angles, public and private security. By public security, the law examines how the State protects the physical integrity of its citizens from abuse by other citizens.

One way to comply with these positive obligations in the area of citizens’ security and safety would be for the government to monitor, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of its law enforcement and security agencies. In addition, the government must truly make security and safety of those who live in the society, a public policy priority by tackling the root cause

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of violence and crime, which is extreme poverty and lack of opportunities and freedom for people to seek personal development and prosperity. The government should also ensure that law enforcement and security agencies have the personnel and infrastructure to provide quality services without discrimination or distinction.

In implementing these steps, the government must also uphold the rule of law and respect for human rights in its law enforcement response to violence and crime in the society. Preventing and combating violence and crime must not put security before human rights, which can lead to erosion of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the citizens.

At the same time, the citizenry must reckon that security is the first law of nature and no administration should do anything that compromise the security of her citizens.

However, there are times politicians because of overzealousness and the tendency to protect their personal estates, are tempted to use official security for their personal advantage.

This is exactly what happened to the existence of “Operation Famou-Tangbei”, an outfit created under the administration of Chief Timipre Sylva, while in the saddle as the Governor of Bayelsa State. He introduced the outfit as an approach by his administration to tackle the challenges of militancy, which was at its peak at that time.

We must also remember that this was the same period that the Federal Government initiated the Amnesty Programme in the Niger Delta Region.

In the Izion local dialect, Famou Tangbei simply means *“Torture, Maim, Kill and Throw Away”*.

It was founded in early September 2010 to combat crime in a state notorious for cultism and other crimes that could upset the peace in the Niger Delta.

THE SPONSORS

This security outfit was funded directly by the Office of the Special Adviser on Security Matters to Governor Timipre Sylva, Mr. Richard Kpodoh.

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Another sad reminder of the Sylva administration and his Famou Tangbe outfit was how the operation became a colossal drain pipe on the resources of Bayelsa State.

It is on record that the sum of N150 million was spent monthly to maintain the outfit. Till date, Bayelsans are still demanding accountability from Chief Timipre Sylva on expenditures such as this and others under whose guise the administration looted Bayelsa State dry.

MODE OF OPERATION AND THE OPERATORS

But, one thing that cannot be taken away from the security squad was their swift response to distress calls whenever there was breach to public peace within the state capital and beyond, even along the coastal lines. Their new vans were ubiquitous and their men were well-kitted to tackle criminal elements in Bayelsa State.

Headed by a young Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Famou Tangbei was able, to a greater extent, restore peace and confidence of investors in the 15-year-old state. But keen observers of socio-political issues in Bayelsa State began to be suspicious when the security outfit, which consists of some bad eggs, decided to turn Nigeria's constitution upside down by engaging in alleged extra-judicial killings and maiming of defenceless citizens, most especially along the streets of Yenagoa.

At that moment of history in Bayelsa State, so many stories surrounding the operations of Operation Famou Tangbe, many too unpleasant to reiterate were in the knowledge of the public particularly, the people of Bayelsa State. It was discovered that while the outfit was established to reduce crime; it rather exacerbated criminal activities.

As time went on in the State, Operation Famou-Tangbe became an instrument of political repression and intimidation by the government of Timipre Sylva. The administration used the outfit to intimidate, maim and harass members of opposition parties in Bayelsa State. Rather than maintain peace and security, Famou Tangbe became an instrument of intimidation like the Gestapo under Nazi Germany.

Also under the watchful eyes of the Timipre Sylva administration, there were several reported cases where people paid sums of money to operatives of the outfit to beat people up for trivial matters such as boyfriend – girlfriend relationship etc.

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In fact, a time came that Famou Tamgbe began to play the role of debt collectors and settlement of matrimonial issues. These are civil and domestic issues that have no relationship with security. The outfit easily became a handy tool in the hands of political office holders in Bayelsa State to seize land from the less-privileged and those who were not politically-connected.

For every reason that one may have to remember the Sylva administration and its Operation Famou Tamgbe outfit, what flashes back is that of an outfit whose operators, saw themselves as being above the regular Nigerian Police Force. The head of the squad executed directives only from Government House and other corrupt government officers. If the operations of the squad are legal and within the ambit of law, why did the Commander refuse to take directives from the State Police Command?

VICTIMS OF OPERATION FAMOU TAMGBE

In setting up the outfit, the Bayelsa State Government decided to use an indigenous Ijaw name so that it would evoke terror and fear in the minds of the people. Famou Tangbei means sweep and throw away, literally speaking. And through its modes of operation, the outfit lived fully to its name as detailed in the cases below;

1. Freddie Philip Ockiya

In the killing of the 22-year old **Freddie Philip Ockiya** in Yenagoa, it is quite obvious that the OFT operators behaved like cultists, who took delight in killing rivals. If they were fighting cultism, one would have expected that when somebody was arrested, the person would be made to pass through due process of the rule of law as against summary execution.

The U. S. Department of State under its 'Diplomacy in Action' programme in its report dwelt on the murder of Ockiya viz 'For example, on September 12, members of the police unit Operation Famou Tangbei (OFT) raided the home of Freddie Philip Ockiya in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. Members of the OFT arrested Ockiya and took him to the local police station. His family searched for him until September 21, when his body was discovered at the morgue. The

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family filed a suit against members of the police and government in a federal high court.

The inspector general of police disbanded the OFT in late September, but authorities did not arrest any members of the OFT in connection with Ockiya's death by year's end'.

2. **Tochukwu Uzoukwu**

The Amnesty International (AI) in investigating human rights abuses against residents of Bayelsa by the anti-crime security outfit, (OFT) in the state, specifically, probed the circumstances surrounding the death of one **Tochukwu Uzoukwu**, who was allegedly murdered by operatives of the OFT.

Amnesty International officials, including Anja Bienert of the Police and Human Rights Programme, Aster Van Kregtan, of the International Secretariat and an official named Lucy, held meetings with key witnesses of the two incidents that indicted the OFT of human rights abuses.

The global body, working in conjunction with the Bayelsa State chapter of Nigeria-based Civil Liberties Organization (CLO), then prepared the ground to sue the Inspector-General of Police and the Bayelsa State Government to challenge the legality of the establishment of the security outfit.

Investigation revealed that there had been subtle moves by the leadership of Famou Tangbei to call the family of Uzoukwu for a meeting so that the matter could be resolved amicably.

Sources at the meeting said with Amnesty International (AI) stepping in, the matter would have definitely attracted global attention and possibly forced the Force Headquarters to order the disbandment of the security outfit and order a probe into its activities.

The officials of the human rights body were said to have expressed deep concern over the activities of OFT in Bayelsa State.

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The Secretary of CLO in the state, Mr. Morris Alagoa, in an interview in Yenagoa, disclosed that the CLO cooperated with other organizations within and outside Nigeria to ensure that justice was done in the case.

Alagoa insisted that the police officers involved in the two incidents should be arrested, dismissed and prosecuted.

While stating that the CLO was not against OFT combating crime in the state, he pointed out that the fact that, with all the numerous arrests they had made, nobody had been charged to court spoke volume about the motive of the security outfit.

In his reaction, the then Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Eguaveon Emoakpe, said the Bayelsa State Police Command had nothing to fear over the investigation by the Amnesty International.

According to him, in the course of their investigation they would discover the truth and know that OFT operatives had not violated the human rights of Bayelsans.

He claimed that the raids carried out by the security outfit was to ensure that Bayelsa State remained safe for its people, as the police would not abdicate its responsibilities of protecting lives and property.

3. Ezonasa Dietemepreye

It also probed the disappearance of one **Ezonasa Dietemepreye**, who was shot and arrested by OFT around February 22, 2011 and had not been seen since then.

4. Karina Frank-Oputu

The world in general and Bayelsans in particular need to be reminded of the murder of the Plant Manager at Gilly-Helena Hotel, Late **Mr. Karina Frank-Oputu**, who in September 2011, was beaten to death by Famou Tamgbe operatives in Yenagoa. This is just one of several cases of unreported extra-judicial killings.

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Such cases were numerous in Bayelsa State and most of the victims could not complain for fear of being maimed or killed by the operatives, without any hope of redress from the government under the Timipre Sylva administration.

5. The Hotel Attendant on Imgbi Road

Investigations conducted then by Saturday Tribune revealed that the excesses of Famou Tangbei reached the peak when, an attendant in a popular hotel along the popular Imgbi Road, was allegedly tortured to death on the suspicion that he stole N75,000 belonging to a lodger. Though the accusation was later discovered to be false, the young man did not have the opportunity to defend himself over the allegation.

6. A young boy, who came for a social function from Port Harcourt, having gained admission to a higher institution, was found missing after officers of the security force raided an area in the state capital. Efforts to locate him proved abortive as he could not be found by his troubled relations.

7. Termination of Life by Forced Drowning

Another horrible case was a boy who was apprehended by the overzealous mobile policemen, who formed the nucleus of the special security outfit. Reports indicated that he was ordered to jump into a swampy stream or face the wrath of hot lead which would be pumped into him from the AK 47 rifles of the trigger-happy policemen. Terrified by the dicey situation, the boy was between the devil and the deep blue sea. He could not swim. When the threat became unbearable, he chose to jump into the stream and got drowned. That was his tragic end.

8. Peremuwei Sakori

Regrettably, however, the peace of a graveyard in the oil-rich state caved in on the night of the nation's 51st Independence Anniversary celebration. Residents of Yenagoa trembled in fear as police patrol team attacked some youths along Imgbi Street, off the popular Punch Road around 8.00 p.m, on Saturday, firing shots at

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close range at the fleeing young Nigerians, who were in a celebration mood.

Saturday Tribune then authoritatively informed that as the youths scampered for safety, one of them, along with his twin brother, was allegedly shot at close range by the trigger-happy security operatives.

A witness said that the security operatives deliberately opened fire on the crowd and a 23-year-old boy, simply identified as **Peremuwei Sakori**, was shot in the abdomen and part of his stomach was ripped open.

At the Emergency Ward of the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Yenagoa, where he was rushed to by his aged mother and sister, he was sighted battling to survive, as medical experts hurriedly administered drugs on him.

9. **Kelvin Kudaba**

Kelvin Kudaba, a 30-year-old student, would have stayed back at home on the night of June 27, 2011, if he had known that members of Operation Famou Tangbei were lurking around his neighbourhood at Punch Road, Off Imgbi Road, Yenagoa, the capital of Bayelsa State.

But the young man, then a student of the state's chapter of the National Open University of Nigeria, could not endure mosquito bites that night. So, he dashed out to the nearby supermarket to buy insecticide at about 9.30 pm.

Before the soft-spoken Kudaba could reach the supermarket, his body was almost disfigured. He was rounded up by the notorious special police squad, kicked and hit all over with boots and gun butts and thoroughly horsewhipped. His body was lacerated and his shirt was soaked with blood that came from his torn skin. He was made to roll on the muddy ground with a loaded gun pointed at him. After that, he was hijacked and thrown into an unmarked Hilux patrol vehicle and driven away.

Hear him, "It took the intervention of my brother before I could come

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out of the Famou Tangbei enclave. I wasn't the only one that received this kind of treatment. Others were also hounded and thrown into stinking and messy jails. I've never been so humiliated in my life. They treated me like a common criminal”.

However, before the police squad took Kudaba and other passers-by away, they had shot several times into the air in the neighbourhood, causing pandemonium.

Groaning in pains Kudaba said, “This is uncivil in a state where leadership has grossly failed in its responsibility to guarantee the safety of the citizen,”. “Look at my back. Is it now a sin to walk to a nearby shop for the purchase of one thing or the other? This is indeed an act of state-sponsored terrorism, which must be quickly addressed before people's patience is stretched to the limit. Nobody is against a special police squad set up to fight crime; what I'm saying is that such a squad must be civil in carrying out their activities.”

The brother who intervened to rescue him from the dungeon of Famou Tangbei said he had to use his contacts to free his younger brother. The man, who said his name should not be mentioned to avoid victimisation, wondered what would become the fate of other helpless victims, who had no network of influential persons to free them from the torture cells of the dreaded squad.

“I feel like a stranger in my state,” he says. “I feel very defenceless and terrorised. It is explainable when one is maltreated by criminals or militants, but how can one explain being unjustly arrested, tortured and detained by the police who are supposed to protect lives and property? This development has to stop before it leads to real war.”

10. Fred Okunbor

For instance, fun seekers could not forget in a hurry their ordeal in the hands of the notorious squad on June 25, 2011 at the Laida Car Wash and Exclusive Disco Bar located on School Road, Okutukutu, Yenagoa. Curiously, the bar is always protected by two armed policemen. But when about six vans of the dreaded Famou Tangbei pulled over in front of the bar, trouble started.

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They ignored the presence of the police guards; invaded the bar, kicked, flogged and slapped everybody in sight.

An employee of the Central Bank of Nigeria, who was relaxing after the day's job, was seriously beaten with his clothes torn.

Some operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency were kicked and slapped and three sales girls were beaten and fondled. At the end of the operation, they pushed all their victims, including the owner of the bar, **Mr. Fred Okunbor**, into their vans and drove them to their operational base in Yenagoa.

Okunbor was beaten and bruised. He narrates his experience, "This is a place where people relax after the day's job. At about 10.30 pm on Friday, I was sitting on a table with my friends, armed policemen from Famou Tangbei stormed my bar. The next thing they did was to flog people. I stood up and introduced myself as the owner of the bar. But instead of listening to me, one of them flogged and slapped me.

"The next thing they did was to pack all my customers, including my sales girls, into their vans and took them to their office. So, customers left with my money and my sales girls left with my money. My customers that were victims of this attack were lecturers, anti-drug operatives and a CBN employee.

11. Sarah Bassey

One of the sales girls from the Lavidia Car Wash and Exclusive Disco Bar, who identified herself as **Sarah Bassey**, was not spared by the notorious operatives. Sarah, who said she was doing the job to sustain herself, recalled that she was almost raped at the Famou Tangbei camp.

"When we got to their station, one of them picked me out and asked another officer to take me to a secluded and dark corner. But because I was afraid, I begged my colleague to accompany me to the place. When the officer who wanted me came and saw my colleague with me, he was angry and ordered the girl to leave but she refused.

"Not quite long, the officer came and started to hold me and fondle

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my breast. I resisted but he complained that he was trying to save me and I was not ready to cooperate with him. Because he was annoyed, he threatened to shoot me and I begged him with tears in my eyes. Then, suddenly, one senior officer came and the one that wanted to rape me quickly said I should stop crying, threatening to shoot me if I disclosed his encounter with me to the senior officer,” she says.

She adds, “I felt humiliated and sexually harassed. I’m only doing this job to sustain myself. Until now, I cannot explain why police officers maintained by taxpayers’ money to protect lives and property will turn round to humiliate those they are supposed to protect. The IG should come to our aid.”

12. The humiliation cut across all categories of persons in the state. There was a report of a newly-wedded couple, who decided to accompany their guests to the park around Tombia in Yenagoa when Famou Tangbei swooped on them, flogged and made them roll on muddy ground. At the end, they were all whisked away to the Famou Tangbei camp and detained.

13. Uche Nwafor

Even journalists working in the state were not spared. A then correspondent of the New Nigeria Newspaper, **Mr. Uche Nwafor**, was also arrested, flogged and made to roll inside murky water. He was taken to the command headquarters of Famou Tangbei and detained.

“They did not listen to me when I told them that I’m a journalist. I was seriously beaten and I saw other victims, especially helpless young girls, in detention. This is a case of man’s inhumanity to man. These people are brutal and the human rights organisations need to rise up to the occasion,” he said.

But the then Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Eguavoen Emokpai, said raiding criminal hideouts was a strategy adopted to maintain the peace in the state by arresting criminals.

He said through the operations, dark spots were combed with the aim of arresting criminals.

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“We’re only fighting crime to ensure that there is security in Bayelsa. We raid black spots only to arrest criminals,” he said.

14. Victor Emmanuel

Victor was murdered in cold blood by trigger-happy OFT operatives ten minutes away from a Sunday Church Service. The report of the ‘U. S. Department of State - Diplomacy in Action’ read as follows ‘On October 16, police reportedly shot and killed Victor Emmanuel in Bayelsa State after he criticized the police for extorting money from passing motorists on the road from his church. On October 28, police officials announced that the accused officers received an “orderly room trial” that could lead to dismissal or prosecution; however, the case remained pending at year’s end’.

15. ThankGod Michael

He was killed by operatives of Timipre Sylva's Famou Tangbei in September 2011. At 26 years of age, he lost his life on a mere allegation that he befriended a girl and without questioning the boy, the sisters of the girl called the dreaded Famou Tangbei who promptly arrested and took him to their camp where he was tortured and brutally murdered.

Several years later, his family members in Opolo-epie, Yenagoa are still inconsolable even as they search for justice.

16. ATTACK ON BAYELSA ELECTION PETITION TRIBUNAL

On April 30, 2011, there was a weekend attack on the Registry of the Bayelsa State Election Petitions Tribunal for the National Assembly Elections, within the precincts of the High Court Complex Ovom, Yenagoa, which coincidentally is also the headquarters of the Bayelsa State Judiciary.

The hoodlums destroyed furniture, assaulted a member of the Bayelsa State House of Assembly thereat and with arms, robbed staffers of the Tribunal of N70,000 cash, and carted away vital documents and implements in the process.

This prompted condemnations from several quarters. Prominent

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among them was the Yenagoa branch of the Nigerian Bar Association who called for the institution of a high-powered investigative team with the required independence to probe the attack, more so as the attack was led by a young man strategically supported, unfortunately, by a professional colleague of theirs who is also a registered member of the Yenagoa branch of the NBA.

The then Chairman of the Yenagoa branch of the NBA, Barrister Stanley Ike Damabide at the end of the body's deliberation condemned in strong terms what was described as the desecration and insult of the judiciary and the ignoble role played by the state government security outfit, codenamed Operation Famou Tangbei which allegedly gave the entire operation the needed overt and covert cover that enabled the rampaging thugs to dastardly carry out their act successfully and thereafter get away unhindered.

DISSOLUTION OF OFT

Although, most residents believed that the outfit had considerably reduced crimes in the state, its activities were questioned especially by the civil society groups over series of unexplained extra-judicial killings of suspects.

It was also alleged that the outfit was effectively used to intimidate and harass members of the opposition political parties during the April general elections in the state.

However, petitions against operation Famou Tangbei that had flooded the Police Headquarters, Abuja, could not effectively trigger the disbandment.

The attack on the State Election Petition Tribunal was the banana peel for the fall of the OFT. The NBA, Yenagoa while condemning the desecration and insult of the judiciary and the ignoble role played by the outfit further justified the call for its immediate disbandment as it had proved to be unworthy of the public funds that were being spent on it.

Wednesday, September 21, 2011, on the orders of the Inspector-General of Police, Hafiz Ringim, the dreaded special police squad (OFT) was scrapped or rather outlawed by the Force Headquarters, Abuja.

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REACTIONS BY STAKEHOLDERS TO THE DISSOLUTION

When the speculation about the dissolution became rife, a lot of reactions were triggered from several quarters; majority of Bayelsans rolled out the drums and celebrated the seeming end of lawlessness and brutality in the oil-rich state.

1. In Yenagoa, the leadership of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) in Bayelsa State charged the Inspector General of Police, Alhaji Hafiz Ringim to set up a high command committee to probe the alleged extra-judiciary killings, intimidation, harassment and extortion of residents of Bayelsa by the disbanded police outfit, code-named Operation Famou Tangbei.

The ACN also called on Governor Timipre Sylva to convene a stakeholders meeting involving the political parties, religious organizations and youth groups to redefine and overhaul security operations in the state.

2. The South-South Elements Progressive Union, SSEPU, also called on the Bayelsa State Government to probe the activities of the defunct Operation Famou Tangbei with a view to ensuring that all the police personnel, allegedly involved in extra-judicial killings were made to face prosecution.
3. A coalition of seven Civil Society Organizations in the Niger Delta, in its resolve to address the issue of the excesses of OFT, independently conducted investigations into their activities. It discovered that while the outfit was established to reduce crime; it rather exacerbated criminal activities.
4. Upon the disbandment, there was an avalanche of petitions indicting the special security outfit. By February 1, 2012, the Acting Governor of Bayelsa State, Chief Nestor Binabo, continued with the dismantling of former Governor Timipre Sylva's structure with the sack of his Special Adviser on Security Matters, Mr. Richard Kpodoh. Kpodoh's office was in charge of the defunct dreaded terror machine.

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Kpodoh's sack was contained in a statement by the new Secretary to the State Government, SSG, Prof Millionaire Abowei.

5. Civil Rights Organisations and other bodies, including the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Bayelsa State Chapter, Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP) and the opposition parties vehemently called for the immediate arrest and prompt prosecution of Sylva's adviser on security.

THE RESPONSE OF CHIEF (DR.) TIMPRE SYLVA TO OPERATION FAMOU TANGBE'S ISSUE

In an October 2011 interview granted to The Sun Newspaper following the disbandment of the state security outfit, Chief Timipre Sylva posited that Operation Famou Tangbei was not necessarily his outfit, but more or less an outfit of the Nigeria Police under the Commissioner of Police, but with nothing to do with him (Sylva) as a person.

On the reports that there were allegations that the outfit was involved in extra-judicial killings and that it was used to intimidate political opponents, the former Governor replied that it was not true. And insisting that he had nothing to do with Operation Famou Tangbei. This response doesn't seem plausible as the OFT was coordinated, funded and managed from the Governor's Office Yenagoa....

WHY THE SPONSORS AND OPERATORS OF FAMOU-TANGBEI IN BAYELSA STATE SHOULD BE PROSECUTED

Most Bayelsans hailed the decision to disband the OFT outfit. In fact the announcement of disbandment kept so many Bayelsa people jubilating. The opinion of Bayelsa people was also sampled, and a great many people were of the view that the sponsors and operatives should be tried for human rights violations against the background of sundry extra-judicial killings in the State.

A few out of the several reasons why the key sponsors and operators of the OFT squad should not only be prosecuted are outlined below:

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1. The Operation Famou-Tangbe OFT outfit was an instrument of political repression and intimidation.

Rather than maintain peace and security, OFT became an instrument of intimidation like the Gestapo under Nazi Germany.

2. There were many reported cases where people paid undisclosed sums of money to OFT Policemen to beat people up for trivial matters such as boyfriend- girlfriend relationship etc; played the role of debt collectors and settlement of matrimonial issues; whereas these are civil and domestic issues that have no relationship with security.

3. The OFT outfit became a handy tool in the hands of political office holders in Bayelsa State to seize land from the less-privileged and those who are not politically connected.

4. The funding of OFT was a colossal drain on the budget of Bayelsa State. Officially, it was estimated that the sum of N150 Million was spent monthly to maintain the outfit. Research however showed that the Government spent the sum of N40 Million while the remaining N110 went down the pockets of the sponsors and operators.

5. OFT operators saw themselves as above the regular police force. The head of the squad executed directives only from Government House and other corrupt government officers. The Commissioner for Police was not rich enough to give instructions to the body. If the operations of the squad were legal and within the ambit of law, why did the Commander refuse to take directives from the State Police Command?

6. Several cases of reported and unreported extra-judicial killings. Such cases were numerous and most of the victims could not complain for fear of been maimed or killed by OFT operatives.

7. Support of rival cult groups and killing of opponents under the guise of curbing cultism.

CONCLUSION

Today, Bayelsans are relieved of the sad experiences of those years and are never willing to have a governor that will return the state to those dark days. The people have continued to compare the administration of

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Governor Henry Seriake Dickson to that of Chief Timipre Sylva, and the difference, they say, is clear.

The security arrangement currently in place is better, even though there may be room for improvement. Apart from direct observations; from the pulse of Bayelsans, information about the exploits of Operation Doo Akpo is felt; especially in the areas of swift response to distress calls and human rights related issues.

And, although the current security outfit is a great improvement when compared to Operation Famou Tamgbe; that wicked, lawless and violent security outfit put in place by the Timipre Sylva's administration. The Seriake Dickson's administration has ensured that the Rule of Law is not only upheld, the fundamental rights of citizens are also protected.

These days in Bayelsa, whosoever is arrested is handed over to the regular police stations after documentation for proper investigation of alleged offences and they are prosecuted in courts of competent jurisdiction.

During the reign of Operation Famou Tamgbe, night life in Yenagoa was restricted and Bayelsans moved about with fear at all times of the day. Today, members of the public are enjoying night life in Yenagoa now without the usual molestation/harassment, arrest and detention associated with Operation Famou Tamgbe.

ATTACHMENTS:

The following reference documentation in respect of the above-detailed report is attached on the pages stated thereafter:

- **Photograph of Chief Timipre Sylva**
- **Photograph of Chief Timipre Sylva with his heavily-armed security guards**
- **Photograph of ThankGod Michael**
- **Photograph of Kelvin Kudaba**
- **Photograph of Tochukwu Isuzu in the Morgue**
- **"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation**

- Photograph of Freddie Phillip Ockiya
- Photograph of Freddie Phillip Ockiya in the Morgue

- Reports from Nigeria Police Force dated July 11, 2011 and June 8, 2012

- Man's inhumanity to man: THE ATROCITIES OF OFT UNDER GOV. TIMIPRE SYLVA

- NBA wants attack on Election Petition Tribunal in Bayelsa probed

- Save us from police brutality, Yenagoa residents cry out to IG

- [Amnesty International probes murder of Citizen Uzoukwu by Nigeria Police](#)

- IGP Disbands Bayelsa Security Outfit ...As Citizens Kick Against Kill And Throw Away Gang

- A REPORT OF THE CIVIL LIBERTIES ORGANISATION [CLO] IN BAYELSA STATE
Title: The arrest, torture and killing of ThankGod Michael by operatives of OFT.

- Fears in Bayelsa over scrapping of police squad Operation Famou Tangbei (OFT)

- WHY THE SPONSORS AND OPERATORS OF FAMOU-TANGBEI IN BAYELSA STATE SHOULD BE PROSECUTED

- Fresh Air Of Peace Under Threat In Bayelsa
..... As Ban On Famou Tangbei Causes Tension

- THE RESPONSE OF CHIEF (DR.) TIMPRE SYLVA TO OPERATION FAMOU TAMGBE'S ISSUE

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- **Bayelsa Ag Gov sacks Sylva's security adviser**
- **U. S. Dept. of State - Diplomacy in Action 2011 Human Rights Reports: Nigeria**
- **Sylva promoted cultism, secret killings in Bayelsa – Dickson**
- **Bayelsa: Sylva rues mistakes in office, begs for forgiveness**

- **DICKSON: HOLD SYLVA ACCOUNTABLE FOR STATE-SPONSORED MURDERS**

- **Remembering Bayelsa Of Yesterday: Timipre Sylva's Famous Tamgbe**

- **Insecurity Swept Timipre Sylva Out of Office**

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Chief Timipre Sylva

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Ex-Governor Timipre Sylva with his heavily-armed Security Guards



ThankGod Michael: Tortured to Death

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Kelvin Kudaba's lacerated body. Inset Kudaba

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Tochukwu Isuzu

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Freddie Philip Ockiya

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Freddie Philip Ockiya in the Morgue

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THE NIGERIA POLICE

ACCID YENAGOA
PHONE: 085 480560

CB: 5290/BYS/X/D4/VOL. 10/8

THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,
'D' DEPARTMENT,
THE NIGERIA POLICE,
STATE C.I.D.,
YENAGOA
BAYELSA STATE

11TH JULY, 2011.

REF NO.: _____

Date: _____

The Commissioner of Police,
'A' Department,
State Headquarters,
Yenagoa.

POLICE INVESTIGATION REPORT
RE-CASE OF ALLEGED EXTRA JUDICIAL KILLING
(MURDER) OF ONE TOCHUKWU EZEKWE 'M' 25 YRS
CR:322/2011

COMPLAINANT: VICTOR EZEKWE 'M'

SUSPECTS (1) F/NO. 155317 SGT BENJAMIN OGBUAGU 'M' 35YRS
(2) F/NO. 142039 CPL. AGBALALAH KEMEWORIGHA 'M' 32YRS
(3) F/NO. 162940 CPL. MANWELL NWJEKE 'M' 6YRS
(4) F/NO. 393314 CPL. UMORU FRIDAY 'M' 31YRS
(5) F/NO. 182961 SGT NWAGBOSO BONIFACE 'M' 41YRS
(6) F/NO. 399704 CPL JOSEPH ENUMAH 'M' 33YRS
(7) F/NO. 369292 CPL. UDDEME ANITA 'M' 34YRS
(8) F/NO. 462355 PC. GRABO EBIDOUDE 'M' 35YRS
(9) F/NO. 183381 PC. JACKSON BOYEMIF 'M' 22YRS

INTRODUCTION: This deals with a case of alleged extra judicial killing conspiracy and murder of one Tochukwu Ezekwe 'm' of about 25 years old which occurred at Shell-Ram area of Yenagoa, on 11th May 2011. The case was reported at Yenagoa Police Station by one Victor Ezekwe 'm' a relation of the deceased against the above named Policemen attached to Operation Fambou-Tangbei later transferred to this department for detailed investigation and report.

2.0 **FACTS OF THE CASE:** on 11th May 2011, the deceased Tochukwu Ezekwe 'm' a sales boy to Victor Ezekwe, the complainant after closing from the day's business left for the waterside to bath but failed to return home. All efforts to trace him also failed till 15/5/2011 when his dead body was found floating in the river and a case of sudden and unnatural death was reported at Yenagoa Police Station.

Later it was gathered that at about 1800 hours of the same 11/5/2011, Policemen attached to Operation Famou Tangbei, caught the deceased smoking weeds suspected to be Indian hemp, took him to the bank of the river, and ordered him to jump into the river where he got drowned and died due to fear as he doesn't know how to swim being somebody from the eastern part of Nigeria.

3.0

INVESTIGATION: When the casefile was received, voluntary statement was recorded from the complainant, after which the investigating team proceeded to the scene of the incident. At the scene people of the neighbourhood were interviewed and statements recoded from one Godpower Stanley and others who claimed to have witnessed the incident. The Policemen who were on patrol duty during the period made statements under caution admitting that they saw the deceased but denied being responsible for his death. The decomposing dead body of the deceased was deposited at FMC mortuary. Coroner forms were served on the pathologist who performed postmortem examination on the body and confirmed the cause of death to be drowning.

Summary statements of the complainant, witnesses and the Policemen are as follows:-

- 3.1 **VICTOR EZEKWE 'M':** He is the complainant of the case and a brother to the deceased. He stated that on 11/5/2011, Sgt. Benjamin Ogbuagu phoned him to meet him at the Shell-Ram, that he has arrested his boy with Indian hemp. For the fact that he was far from the scene he called his other brother, Gideon Ezekwe whom the deceased was serving to meet the Sgt but when Gideon replied him that he was not in Yenagoa, he called Sgt Ogbuagu to leave the boy and see him the next day. He further stated that on 12/5/2011 when he had that Tochukwu was dead, he called Sgt Ogbuagu to confirm the where about of the boy but the Sergeant replied him that Operation Famou Tangbe Policemen whom he handed over the boy told him that the boy was dead. He added that witnesses told him that when Tochukwu was drowning the Policemen sent one Stanley who was bathing in the river to rescue him but Stanley could not because he has no rope to throw at the drowning boy till Tochukwu got drowned in present of the Policemen.

- 3.2 **GIDEON EZEKWU 'M'**: He is the deceased direct brother, that he arrived Yenagoa at 2200 hours of 11/5/2011 and was told about the incident by one Chidi Oporum that Tochukwu left for toilet at the waterside and he was arrested by Policemen who escorted him to the river bank, asked him to say his last prayers and commanded him to jump into the river, but when the boy was begging that he did not know how to swim, they asked him to choose either to be shot or jumped into the river and as they cocked their gun out of fear he jumped into the river.
- 3.3 **GODSPOWER STANLEY 'M'**: He is a witness. He narrated that at about 1820 hours of 11/5/2011, while he was bathing at the waterside he saw three Famou Tangbei Policemen with the deceased who was begging them that he will not do it again. He also stated that the Policemen told him to kneel down and say his last prayer to jump into the river but while the boy was still begging and saying that he does not know how to swim, two of the Policemen cocked their guns and the boy jumped into the river and got drowned. He added that no Policeman asked him to go and rescue the drowning boy.
- 3.4 **JUDE IFEANCHOR 'M'**: He stated that at the period of the incident he was on the jetty at the waterside with a woman that came to dispose off refuse and saw when a Policeman arrested one boy and took him to Operation Famou Tangbei vehicle. That within a short period the Famou Tangbei men took him to the waterside, asked him to say his last prayer and as they cocked their guns he loosed hope and jumped into the river. He also said that while the boy was in the river the Policemen pointed their guns at him to shoot him but as himself and the woman shouted for help many people came to the place but the Famou Tangbei Policemen warned the people not to help till the boy was not seen again.
- 3.5 **COMFORT OKPE 'F'**: She claimed to have gone to the waterside to dispose off refuse toward late evening and witnessed when three Famou Tangbei Policemen who were with the deceased told him to raise his hands up and say his last prayer. She also stated that while the boy was begging them, they ordered him to face the river and cocked their guns so he jumped into the river.

- 3.6 BENNETH KALABEKE 'M': He resides within the neighbourhood of the incident. He explained that when relations of the deceased informed him that, men of Operation Famou Tangbei asked their brother to jump into the river they did not see the dead body of the boy till the morning of 15/5/2011 when he called the DPO Yenagoa Police Station and reported the incident. He also stated that the DPO asked him why was the case not reported since then and instructed him to come to the Station with the relations of the deceased to report the case which he did. That in the evening of that same 15/5/2011, the naked body of the deceased was seen in the river and removed to FMC. He denied being the 1st complainant to have told the Police that the boy went to the waterside to bath.
- 3.7 F/NO. 155317 SGT BENJAMIN OGBUAGU 'M': He is the first suspect and the leader of the anti-vice patrol team. He stated that on 11/5/2011 at about 1855 hours, Cpl Umoru Friday who went to toilet at the waterside arrested a boy smoking Indian hemp and when searched four other wraps of Indian hemp were recovered from him. He further said that within the process their unit commander called them to proceed to Arritalin road to arrest some cultists, hence himself and his team members handed over the suspect to Operation Famou Tangbei team led by Sgt Nwagboso Boniface who were also patrolling the same area for further actions and that he does not know what happened thereafter.
- 3.8 F/NO142039 CPL AGBALALA KEMEWORIGHA, F/NO. 162940CPL MAXWELL HWEKE AND F/NO.393814 CPL UMORU FRIDAY: They are the 2nd, 3rd and 4th suspects on duty together with the 1st suspect. In their respective statements, corroborated each other as a team.
- 3.9 F/NO 182961 SGT NWAGBOSO BONIFACE (M): He is the 5th suspect and the commander of Operation Famou Tangbei patrol team. He admitted taking over the deceased suspect and that the suspect later led him and team to a batcher at the waterside where he claimed to have bought the Indian hemp and as they were trying to ascertain if any person was in, the suspect suddenly escaped from them. That the period was dark and they do not consider the matter serious, hence they did not bother to look for him, adding that they did not know that the boy fell into the river otherwise they would have made entry at 'A' Division

Police station. He denied ordering the boy to say his last prayer, cocking their rifles and asking him to jump into the river.

- 3.10 F/NO 399704 CPL JOSEPH ENUMAH, F/NO 369292 CPL UDEME ANTIA F/NO183281 JACKSON DOUYEMIE (M) AND F/NO 462555 PC OFABO EBIDOUDE (M): They are the 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th suspects and members of the Operation Famou Tangbei patrol team. In their respective statements, also corroborated each other with their team leader Sgt. Nwagboso Boniface but denied being culpable.

4.0

FINDINGS: Investigation conducted reveals the followings:

- i) That the deceased Tochukwu Ezekwe (m) aged 25years old is a sales boy to one Gideon Ezekwe who has a building materials store at the Shell-Ram, Yenagoa.
- ii) That at about 1900 hrs of 11th May, 2011 Tochukwu Ezekwe was arrested while smoking Indian hemp in the floating toilet structure by Cpl Umoru Friday of Anti -Vice patrol team. When searched four other wraps of substance suspected to be Indian hemp were recovered from his pocket.
- iii) That after the recovery, Sgt. Benjamin Ogbuagu called one Victor Ezekwe, the senior brother to the deceased and requested him to meet them.
- iv) That while waiting for Victor Ezekwe at the Shell Ram, Sgt. Ogbuagu and his team members were called by their unit commander to proceed immediately to Arietallin road, Yenagoa, to arrest cultist terrorizing the area.
- v) That due to the urgency and importance of the new assignment, Sgt Benjamin Ogbuagu and members of his team handed over the deceased to Operation Famou-Tangbei Police patrol team, led by Sgt Nwagboso Boniface for further action
- vi) That thereafter the suspect led the Policemen, Sgt. Nwagboso Boniface, Cpl Joseph Enumah, Cpl Edeme Antia, Pc Ofabo Ebidoude and Pc Jackson Douyemie to the river bank of Shell Ram to show them where he bought the Indian hemp.
- vii) That on the way going as the day became dark the officers claimed they lost contact with the suspect which they alleged dodged away.

- viii) That when the officers searched for the suspect without seeing him, they considered the issue minor, returned to their vehicle and continued their patrol.
- ix) That though one Godpower Stanley (m), Jude Ifeanachor (m), and Comfort Okpe (f) who claimed to be eye witnesses made statements but their differential accounts on how the Operation Famou Tangbei Policemen dealt with the suspect leaves much doubt to be desired on the truthfulness of their testimony.
- x) That while Victor Ezekwe, the complainant stated that he was told by Godpower Stanley who was bathing at the water front that the Policemen after telling the suspect to jump into the river asked him to rescue the drawing boy but he could not but Godpower Stanley denied saying anything of such.
- xi) That Godpower Stanley also mentioned that the Policemen asked the suspect to kneel down and say his last prayer before jumping into the river while Jude Ifeanachor narrated that himself and Comfort Okpe were on the Jetty watching the scenario when the Policemen told the suspect to jump into the river, Comfort Okpe on the other hand also contradicted Jude Ifeanachor that she was not on the jetty that she was near the floating toilet to dispose off her refuse and saw the Policemen telling Tochukwu *to put up his hands, face the river* and say his last prayers.
- xii) That the distance between the Shell Ram Jetty where Jude Ifeanachor claimed to have observed the scene and the floating toilet where Comfort Okpe also claimed that she was, ~~is~~ about 20 yards apart.
- xiii) That the statements of witnesses alleging the Policemen to have physically dealt with the deceased was contradictory and suggests a gang up to tarnish the image of Operation Famou Tangbei and the command at large.
- xiv) That there is no doubt that the Policemen actually had contact with the deceased, but if the complainant and the witnesses were sure that they saw the Policemen ordering the suspect to jump into the river on 11/5/2011 and he got drowned in their presence as alleged they would not have waited till 15/6/2011 before reporting the case.
- xv) That the dead body of the deceased Tochukwu Ezekwe was recovered naked from the river.

- xvi) That none of the witnesses ever mentioned that the Policemen removed the cloths of the suspect before allegedly ordering him to jump into the river
- xvii) That Dr. E. N Etebu performed postmortem examination on the body of the deceased and confirmed the cause of death to be drowning.
- xviii) That the 1st to 4th suspect namely Sgt. Benjamin Ogbuagu, Cpl Agbalala Kemeworigha, Cpl Maxwell Nweke and Cpl Umoru Friday of the Anti Vice, bravo patrol team who earlier arrested the suspect handed him over alive to the Operation Famou Tangbei patrol team should be exonerated from any criminal responsibility.
- xix) That it is doubtful, and unimaginable, that Policemen in the event of executing their official duty, arrested a suspect for mere smoking or unlawful possession of weeds suspected to be Indian hemp, not minding the number, or in the course of any offence, would ask the suspect to say his last prayers, cocked guns and ordered him to jump into the river to die.

5-0 **RECOMMENDATION:** Considering the fact that Sgt. Nwagboso Boniface and his team of Operation Famou Tangbei patrol team seem to have had the last contact with the deceased before his disappearance and subsequent death by drowning, the conflicting statements of the witnesses created a lot of doubts and contradictions from the negative minds, suspicious of undermining the good jobs earlier /now put in place by this outfit. It is our suggestions that the casefile be duplicated and sent to DPP for vetting and legal advice to determine any liability, please.


CSP NWOMCHUKWU C.N
For: Assistant Commissioner of Police
State CID, Yenagoa.



Homicide Section
State CIID, Yenagoa.

8/6/2012.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police,
State CIID,
Yenagoa.

POLICE INTERIM INVESTIGATION REPORT
RE-CASE OF ALLEGED MURDER OF ONE FREDDIE OCKIYA 'W' 21
YEARS OLD REPORTED AGAINST POLICE MEN ATTACHED TO
OPERATION FAMOU TANGBEI
CR: 303/2012.

INTRODUCTION: This deals with a case of alleged murder of one Freddie Ockiya 21 years old man reported by Mr. Philip Kupe Ockiya, the father of the deceased against Police men attached to Operation Famou Tomgbei simply named as (1) Vincent Blekiwa (2) Uba Adajah (3) and one Fabian – surname unknown under the leadership of one Alex Udeze and referred to this Department for detailed investigation.

2. **FACTS OF THE CASE:** The complainant, Mr. Philip Kupe Ockiya alleged through his lawyer, Barrister Ken Atsuwete of K.O Atsuwete & Co legal chambers Yenagoa that on 12th day of September 2011 at about 0600hrs the above named Police men attached to Operation Famou Tangbei who operated with a white Hilux vehicle marked BYOFT 12 raided his compound at Yenigwe Epie in a commando style and whisked away his son Freddie Ockiya whom they accused of being in possession of fire arms. He also alleged that there after effort to locate the where about of his son proved unsuccessful till

21st September 2011 when the dead body of Freddie Ockiya was found in the mortuary at the Federal Medical Centre Yenagoa and an attendant named Chima allegedly revealed that the corpse of his son was brought into the mortuary on 13/9/2011. This prompted reporting the case to the commissioner of Police with a prayer to fish out the Police men involved in the alleged murder of his son for investigation and prosecution purposes.

3. **INVESTIGATION:** On receipt of the petition, FMC Mortuary was visited immediately where the corpse of the late Freddie Ockiya was seen. The house of the complainant at Yenigwe Epie by Okarki junction where Freddie Ockiya was allegedly whisked away was also visited but the complainant Mr. Philip Kupe Ockiya declined making written statement. However following repeated invitation, the complainant surfaced on 24th April, 2012 with one of his other son named Inemo Philip Ockiya and made written corroborative statements in support of the petition. Coroners forms were served at the Federal Medical Centre Yenagoa and Dr. P.E Udoye a Consultant pathologist conducted post mortem examination on the body of the late Freddie Ockiya in the present of the complainant and other relations and confirmed the cause of death to be head injury.

The office of operation Famou Tangbei was contacted to produce or hand over those whose names are contained in the complainant's petition for investigation purpose but surprisingly the officer in charge informed the investigating team that officers with such names without service numbers and ranks are difficult to trace in the outfit.

While efforts were on to trace the Police men allegedly involved by way of conducting identification parade, the complainant instituted a civil suit against the police demanding two billion naira damages/compensation. This stalled the ongoing investigation pending the final determination of the said suit by the court. However, below are the excerpts of the statements of the complainant and his other son, Inemo Ockiya.

- 3.1 **PHILIP KUPE OCKIYA 'M'**: He is the complainant of this case and the father of the late Freddie Ockiya. He stated that on 12/11/2011 at about 0600 hours a team of Operation Famou Tamgbei Police men whom he identified as (1) Vincent Elekwe (2) Uba Adejoh (3) one Fabiam surname not known and SP Eyo Aniete whisked away his son from his house at Yenegwe Epie to unknown destination. He said after much search, the dead body of his sons was found in the mortuary at the FMC on 21/9/2011 where one Chima revealed to him that it was brought into the mortuary by one Oba whose real name according to him as Inspr Musa.
- 3.2 **INSMO PHILIP OCKIYA 'M'**: He is a son of the complainant, a brother to the late Freddie Ockiya and a witness in this case. He corroborated the statement of his father, Philip Ockiya 'm'
4. **FINDINGS:** Though investigation into this case is on-going, however the following points have been highlighted.
 - i. That on 12/9/2011 at about 0600hrs seven men dressed with Police Khaki trouser and black T-Shirt with the inscription operation famou

Tangbei arrived the house of the complainant Philip Kupe Ockiya at Yenegwe Epie in a white Hilux vehicle marked OFT 12 in company of a suspected cultist in named Ebi Fekete as a pointer.

- ii. That on arrival, with the help of the pointer the team arrested Freddie Ockiya and took him away.
 - iii. That sources in the FMC revealed that the dead body of Freddie Ockiya was brought into the mortuary by men of operation famou Tangbei.
 - iv. That the ranks and force numbers of the seven Police men who were said to have whisked away and allegedly killed Freddie Ockiya where not supplied to enable us trace them easily.
 - v. That while frantic efforts were being made to fish out those involved, the complainant instituted a civil suit demanding two billion naira damage/compensation.
 - vi. That the court action of the complainant has stalled the ongoing investigation pending the determination of the said suit in court.
5. **RECOMMENDATION:** Considering the above findings, it is suggested that this file be kept in view pending the outcome of the decision of the court before any further action please.


DSP EBIMEKUMOR KEJANOR
O/C Homicide Section,
State CID,
Yenagoa.

Jun 03, 2011

Man's inhumanity to man: THE ATROCITIES OF OPERATION FAMOU TANGBEI UNDER GOVERNOR TIMIPRE SYLVA

‘The policemen dragged him to the waterside, asked him to say his last prayers and, at gunpoint, ordered him to run inside the river. They stood there, watching him drown’

From FEMI FOLARANMI, Yenagoa

Friday, June 03, 2011

•Tochukwu's lifeless body

Photo: Sun News Publishing

[More Stories on This Section](#)

When Tochukwu Uzoukwu arrived in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital, in April 2011, he was full of high hopes of a bright future after he might have served his master, Gideon Ezekwem, faithfully for the mandatory years. Born 25 years ago, Uzoukwu, from Umuduruejike community in Isiala Umuozu, Nwangele Local Government area of Imo state Nigeria, has had his dreams shattered. Sadly, Tochukwu is no more.

His hopes have been truncated allegedly by operatives of the dreaded Operation Famou Tangbei who were said to have taken custody of Tochukwu after a certain Sergeant Benjamin had handed him over to them after he was reportedly caught smoking a substance suspected to be Indian hemp.

Investigations by Daily Sun revealed that shock, disbelief and embarrassment were the expressions on the faces of men of the Bayelsa State Police Command, as their investigations have confirmed that actually the OFT operatives were involved in the killing of Tochukwu Victor Ezekwem, a cousin to the deceased, in an interview, explained that the family would not rest until his killers are brought to book.

He told this reporter: “I am an Igbo man from Umduruejike community in Isi-Alaumuozu Nwangelala Local government area of Imo state. This sad incident that led to the death of Tochukwu happened between 6.00pm and 7.00pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011. I got to know about it when a police officer, Sergeant Benjamin called me on phone, telling me that he had caught one of my boys who was smoking at the time of his arrest. He told me that one of his colleagues went to the toilet at the Shellram waterside, Swali, and saw smoke coming out from one of the rooms and traced it to the boy, Tochukwu Uzuokwu, and that the boy was in his custody as he was speaking with me.

I pleaded with him to please take it easy with the boy until I came to see him. I also told him that that particular boy was an apprentice to my younger brother and that my younger brother was not in town. The next thing was that my relations called me and told me that many people had gathered at the waterside, around the scene of crime. They informed me that Operation Famou Tangbei had killed the boy.” According to an eyewitness, he was led to the river and commanded to raise his hands up, say his last prayers and jump into the river. Sensing that the

end had come, he pleaded frantically that they should spare his life as he was Igbo and could not swim.

Otolo Ifeanachor continued the story: “I am just about 18 years old now, and I am an Igbo boy. I am one of the vigilantes here engaged by the traders to watch over their stores. I witnessed what happened to the deceased, Tochukwu on that fateful day. It occurred just before the day got dark, between 6.30 and 7.00pm. I saw the policemen of Operation Famou Tangbei when they dragged the late Tochukwu to the waterside, holding him firmly by his shorts. And I heard the boy saying, ‘I don’t know, I am innocent.’ Before this time, a certain police officer had handed him over to these very Operation Famou Tangbei policemen that they should take care of the boy. It was after they had kept him for a brief period in their van that they dragged him down to the waterside. And they ordered him to say his last prayers.

Tochukwu then said in Igbo that, ‘if God says I will die today I will die.’ The police then told him to run into the river. The boy told them he didn’t know how to swim. But they threatened him and forced him to jump into the river at gun point. Many people watched while this thing was happening. From where I was watching, I saw the boy’s hand come up about three times before he finally drowned. Some persons wanted to go and assist the drowning boy, but everybody was afraid of the gun the policemen were using to threaten everybody. Then, as the policemen were leaving the scene, I heard them talking. One of them said it might be true that the boy didn’t know how to swim. Another one said: “It is false. He knows how to swim and must have hidden himself in the water. I told you people that we should shoot him, but you have allowed him to escape.”

Gideon Ezekwem, who is the direct boss to the deceased, said there are eyewitnesses who are ready to testify whenever the case gets to court. “I am Gideon Ezekwem, a cousin to the deceased and I brought him to Yenagoa about a month ago to assist me in my business. We are from Umuduruejike community in Isiala Umuoazu, Nwangele Local Government area of Imo State of Nigeria. I was not in town when the incident happened, though I was on my way to Yenagoa that same day. There are eyewitnesses who told me what actually happened and are willing to testify anywhere as to what they saw. My relations have also come from home to confirm the incident.”

Since the body of Tochukwu was discovered five days later and moved to the Federal Medical Centre mortuary amidst chanting of war songs by people who witnessed his murder, his alleged killers have been threatening Ezekwem.

According to the Ezekwem brothers, threat text messages have been sent to their phones by unknown callers warning them to desist from pursuing the matter. The people of Umuduruejike community are also not taking it lightly. Checks indicated that the community has concluded plans to send a delegation to the Bayelsa State Commissioner of Police to demand the arrest and prosecution of those involved in the death of their son. The Civil Liberties Organization, (CLO), in a letter signed by Flint-Williams Odonmini and Alagoa Morris, state vice-chairman and secretary respectively, has called for a probe of the incident as well as the immediate arrest, investigation and prosecution of all those found culpable in the death of Tochukwu.

It advised the Commissioner of Police that depending “on the way your office handles this case, the CLO might have no option than joining other interested groups and members of the public to seek justice in the court of law.”

Victor Ezekwem added that aside bringing those who killed Tochukwu to book, the police

authorities and the Bayelsa State government should pay compensation to the family.

Sources said the leadership of the Bayelsa Police Command was deeply worried about the incident, especially when its homicide division carried out an independent investigation and discovered that Tochukwu was indeed killed. Though a new commander, Aniete Eyoh Akpan, has assumed duties at OFT and has commenced a re-organization of the security outfit, Bayelsans are insisting that his reforms and re-organization would amount to nothing if those who led Tochukwu to his death are not apprehended and made to face the wrath of the law.

All efforts to get the official reaction of the OFT were unsuccessful. but a senior official assured that the incident would be investigated

<http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/news/national/2011/june/03/national-03-06-2011-006.html>

NBA wants attack on Election Petition Tribunal in Bayelsa probed

On May 3, 2011 14:42 pm In News Comments By Samuel Oyadongha, Yenagoa

The Yenagoa branch of the Nigerian Bar Association has called for the institution of a high powered investigative team with the required independence to probe last weekend attack on the registry of state Election Petition Tribunal within the High Court complex by suspected thugs who carted away documentary evidence before it and the sum of N70,000 belonging to the staff.

Chairman of the Yenagoa branch of the NBA, Barrister Stanley Ike Damabide who spoke to newsmen in Yenagoa at the end of the body's deliberation condemned in strong terms what he described as the desecration and insult of the judiciary and the ignoble played by the state government security outfit, Operation Famou Tangbei which allegedly gave cover to the rampaging thugs.

He said, "it is with great concern that the Yenagoa branch of the Nigerian Bar Association is addressing you today, as an unprecedented crude and abominable conduct with desecrating effects on the sanctity of the judiciary in Bayelsa State, has just occurred."

Lamenting the sad attack on the tribunal in which the tribunal officials were not only assaulted but documentary evidences and cash carted away by the hoodlums, the NBA chairman said, "preliminary investigations points to the fact that on the 30th day of April, 2011 thugs led by an identifiable young man, strategically supported, unfortunately, by a professional colleague of ours who is also a registered member of our branch, invaded the registry of the Election Petition Tribunal for the National Assembly elections in Bayelsa, within the High Court Complex Ovom-Yenagoa which is also the headquarters of the Bayelsa State Judiciary and destroyed furniture, assaulted a member of the Bayelsa State House of Assembly thereat and with arms, robbed staffers of the Tribunal of N70,000 cash, carting away vital documents and implements in the course.

"Further facts gathered, points to the fact that the Bayelsa State security outfit styled, "Operation Famou Tangbei" gave the entire operation overt and covert cover, thereby allowing the perpetrators to carry out their dastardly act successfully and get away, thereafter, unhindered.

"As at (Tuesday) a blood stained floor and destroyed furniture as relics of the crime, litter the said registry."

According to the state NBA boss, "persons who are unconscionable and enjoy playing the devil must not be allowed to celebrate their devilry and assume that ours is a society in which violence and lawlessness dictates.

While condemning the desecration and insult of the judiciary and the ignoble role played by the Operation Fomou Tangbei outfit which has, by this conduct, fortified and further justified the call for its immediate disbandment as it has proved to be unworthy of the public funds that is being spent on it, the NBA chairman added that the despicable role of one its members in the saga would be reported to the national leadership of the NBA for appropriate sanction.

It also demanded that a high powered investigative team with the required independence be mandated to investigate the entire saga and bring to justice, all the persons involved in this criminal act, irrespective of their standing in society.

The NBA which joined other well meaning Bayelsans in calling for the immediate disbandment of the dreaded security outfit, Operation Fomou Tangbei which it said has repeatedly proved to be an antithesis to security in the state stressed the need for the provision of adequate security for the staffers of tribunal to avert a reoccurrence.

Read more at: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/05/nba-wants-attack-on-election-petition-tribunal-in-bayelsa-probed/>

Save us from police brutality, Yenagoa residents cry out to IG

- Posted by [News Updates](#) on July 2, 2011 at 2:14am in [Nigeria Crime News](#)
- [Back to Nigeria Crime News News](#)

By Mike Odiegwu, Yenagoa Saturday, 2 Jul 2011



Kudaba's lacerated body. Inset: Kudaba

Kelvin Kudaba, a 30-year-old student, would have stayed back at home on the night of June 27 if he had known that members of Operation Famou Tangbei were lurking around his neighbourhood at Punch Road, Off Imgbi Road, Yenagoa, the capital of Bayelsa State. But the young man, who is a student of the state's chapter of the National Open University of Nigeria, could not endure mosquito bites that night. So, he dashed out to the nearby supermarket to buy insecticide at about 9.30 pm.

Before the soft-spoken Kudaba could reach the supermarket, his body was almost disfigured. He was rounded up by the notorious special police squad, kicked and hit all over with boots and gun butts and thoroughly horsewhipped. His body was lacerated and his shirt was soaked with blood that came from his torn skin. He was made to roll on the muddy ground with a loaded gun pointed at him. After that, he was hijacked and thrown into an unmarked Hilux patrol vehicle and driven away.

"It took the intervention of my brother before I could come out of the Famou Tangbei enclave. I wasn't the only one that received this kind of treatment. Others were also hounded and thrown into stinking and messy jails. I've never been so humiliated in my life. They treated me like a common criminal," he says.

However, before the police squad took Kudaba and other passersby away, they had shot several times into the air in the neighbourhood, causing pandemonium.

"This is uncivil in a state where leadership has grossly failed in its responsibility to guarantee the safety of the citizen," Kudaba said, groaning in pains. "Look at my back. Is it now a sin to

walk to a nearby shop for the purchase of one thing or the other? This is indeed an act of state-sponsored terrorism, which must be quickly addressed before people's patience is stretched to the limit. Nobody is against a special police squad set up to fight crime; what I'm saying is that such a squad must be civil in carrying out their activities."

The brother who intervened to rescue him from the dungeon of Famou Tangbei said he had to use his contacts to free his younger brother. The man, who said his name should not be mentioned to avoid victimisation, wondered what would become the fate of other helpless victims, who had no network of influential persons to free them from the torture cells of the dreaded squad.

"I feel like a stranger in my state," he says. "I feel very defenceless and terrorised. It is explainable when one is maltreated by criminals or militants, but how can one explain being unjustly arrested, tortured and detained by the police who are supposed to protect lives and property? This development has to stop before it leads to real war."

Indeed, the activities of Famou Tangbei – meaning 'Maim, Kill and Throw Away in Ijaw – have become a time bomb that might set off an internecine war in the state. Residents observe that members of the outfit have gone berserk, raiding, arresting and in most cases, sexually harassing their female victims. They seem to have worsened the threat to nightlife and the fragile peace in the state.

For instance, fun seekers could not forget in a hurry their ordeal in the hands of the notorious squad on June 25, 2011 at the Lavidia Car Wash and Exclusive Disco Bar located on School Road, Okutukutu, Yenagoa. Curiously, the bar is always protected by two armed policemen. But when about six vans of the dreaded Famou Tangbei pulled over in front of the bar, trouble started. They ignored the presence of the police guards; invaded the bar, kicked, flogged and slapped everybody in sight.

An employee of the Central Bank of Nigeria, who was relaxing after the day's job, was seriously beaten with his clothes torn. Some operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency were kicked and slapped and three sales girls were beaten and fondled. At the end of the operation, they pushed all their victims, including the owner of the bar, Mr. Fred Okunbor, into their vans and drove them to their operational base in Yenagoa.

Okunbor was beaten and bruised. He narrates his experience, "This is a place where people relax after the day's job. At about 10.30 pm on Friday, I was sitting on a table with my friends, armed policemen from Famou Tangbei stormed my bar. The next thing they did was to flog people. I stood up and introduced myself as the owner of the bar. But instead of listening to me, one of them flogged and slapped me.

"The next thing they did was to pack all my customers, including my sales girls, into their vans and took them to their office. So, customers left with my money and my sales girls left with my money. My customers that were victims of this attack were lecturers, anti-drug operatives and a CBN employee.

"This is supposed to be the most peaceful state in Nigeria, especially as President Goodluck Jonathan comes from here. But Famou Tangbei have punctured the fragile peace in this state. Their activities are worse than the era of militancy. In fact, it is now that insecurity is in Bayelsa State. They have discouraged night life because people no longer enjoy nightlife. I'm

calling on the Inspector-General of Police to save us from this torture,” he says.

One of the sales girls from the bar, who identified herself as Sarah Bassey, was not spared by the notorious operatives. Sarah, who said she was doing the job to sustain herself, recalled that she was almost raped at the Famou Tangbei camp.

“When we got to their station, one of them picked me out and asked another officer to take me to a secluded and dark corner. But because I was afraid, I begged my colleague to accompany me to the place. When the officer who wanted me came and saw my colleague with me, he was angry and ordered the girl to leave but she refused.

“Not quite long, the officer came and started to hold me and fondle my breast. I resisted but he complained that he was trying to save me and I was not ready to cooperate with him. Because he was annoyed, he threatened to shoot me and I begged him with tears in my eyes. Then, suddenly, one senior officer came and the one that wanted to rape me quickly said I should stop crying, threatening to shoot me if I disclosed his encounter with me to the senior officer,” she says.

She adds, “I felt humiliated and sexually harassed. I’m only doing this job to sustain myself. Until now, I cannot explain why police officers maintained by taxpayers’ money to protect lives and property will turn round to humiliate those they are supposed to protect. The IG should come to our aid.”

The humiliation has cut across all categories of persons in the state. There was a report of a newly-wedded couple, who decided to accompany their guests to the park around Tombia in Yenagoa when Famou Tangbei swooped on them, flogged and made them roll on muddy ground. At the end, they were all whisked away to the Famou Tangbei camp and detained.

Even journalists working in the state are not spared. A correspondent of the New Nigeria, Mr. Uche Nwafor, was also arrested, flogged and made to roll inside murky water. He was taken to the command headquarters of Famou Tangbei and detained.

“They did not listen to me when I told them that I’m a journalist. I was seriously beaten and I saw other victims, especially helpless young girls, in detention. This is a case of man’s inhumanity to man. These people are brutal and the human rights organisations need to rise up to the occasion,” he said.

But the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Eguavoen Emokpai, said raiding criminal hideouts was a strategy adopted to maintain the peace in the state by arresting criminals.

He said through the operations, dark spots were combed with the aim of arresting criminals.

“We’re only fighting crime to ensure that there is security in Bayelsa. We raid black spots only to arrest criminals,” he said.

via [Punch](#)

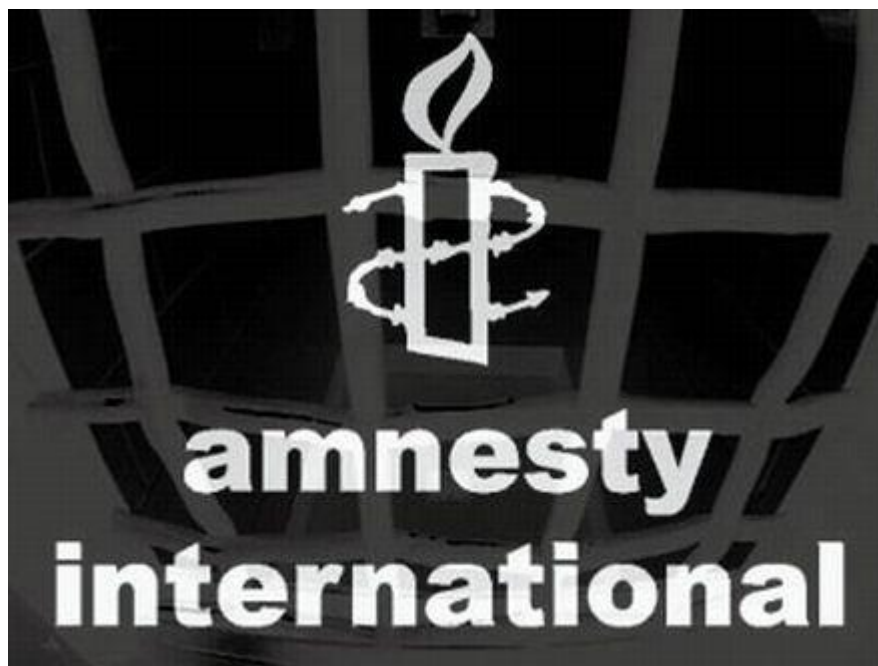
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Amnesty International probes murder of Citizen Uzoukwu by Nigeria Police

by [nigeriapolicewatch](#) • July 4, 2011 • [0 Comments](#)



The Amnesty International (AI) is investigating human rights abuses against residents of the South-south state of Bayelsa by the Nigeria Police's anti-crime security outfit, (OFT) in the state.

Specifically, it is probing the circumstances surrounding the death of Tochukwu Uzoukwu, who was allegedly murdered by operatives of the OFT and the disappearance of one Ezonasa Dietemepreye, who was shot and arrested by OFT since February 22, 2011 and had not been seen since then.

Amnesty International officials, including Anja Bienert of the Police and Human Rights Programme, Aster Van Kregtan, of the international secretariat and official named Lucy, held meetings with key witnesses of the two incidents that indicted the OFT of human rights abuses.

The global body, working in conjunction with the Bayelsa State chapter of Nigeria-based Civil Liberties Organization (CLO), was preparing the ground to sue the Inspector General of Police and the Bayelsa State government to challenge the legality of the establishment of the security outfit.

Investigation revealed that there have been subtle moves by the leadership of Famou Tangbei to call the family of Uzoukwu for a meeting so that the matter could be resolved amicably.

Sources at the meeting said with AI stepping in, the matter would definitely attract global attention and possibly force the Force Headquarters to order the disbandment of the security outfit and order a probe into its activities.

The officials of the human rights body were said to have expressed deep concern over the activities of OFT in Bayelsa State.

The Secretary of CLO in the state, Mr. Morris Alagoa, in an interview in Yenagoa, disclosed that the CLO was cooperating with other organizations within and outside Nigeria to ensure that justice is done in the case.

He insisted that the police officers involved in the two incidents should be arrested, dismissed and prosecuted. On the involvement of the AI, Alagoa said it was good news, as the organization had been known to fight human rights abuses anywhere in the world.

While stating that the CLO was not against OFT combating crime in the state, he pointed out that the fact that, with all the numerous arrests they had made, nobody had been charged to court speaks volume about the motive of the security outfit.

In his reaction, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Eguaveon Emoakpe, said the Bayelsa State Police Command had nothing to fear over the investigation by the Amnesty International

According to him, in the course of their investigation they would discover the truth and know that OFT operatives had not violated the human rights of Bayelsans.

He claimed that the recent raid carried out by the security outfit was to ensure that Bayelsa State remains safe for its people, as the police would not abdicate its responsibilities of protecting lives and property.

[THE SUN](#)

<http://www.thetidenewsonline.com>

IGP Disbands Bayelsa Security Outfit ...As Citizens Kick Against Kill And Throw Away Gang

Posted by [Fyneface Aaron](#) on Sep 26th, 2011 and filed under [News](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#). You can leave a response or trackback to this entry

Bayelsa State internal security outfit code named Operation Famou Tangbei (kill and throw away) may have been disbanded on the orders of the Inspector-General of Police, Mr Hafiz Ringim.

The order to disband the dreaded security outfit whose mode of operations has drawn disdain from residents of the state, was said to have been received by the state police command last Wednesday.

The special police squad was established and funded by the state government to check the rate of crimes in the state ,but observers believed that it was an instrument to checkmate opponents of the Peoples's Democratic Party (PDP) led administration in the state.

Although, most residents believed that the outfit has considerably reduced crimes in the state, its activities are questioned especially by the civil society groups over series of unexplained extra-judicial killings of suspects.

It was also alleged that the outfit was effectively used to intimidate and harass members of the opposition political parties during the April general elections in the state.

However, petitions against operation Famou Tangbei have been flooding the Police Headquarters, Abuja, a situation that might have led to the disbandment.

A REPORT OF THE CIVIL LIBERTIES ORGANISATION [CLO] IN BAYELSA STATE

Title: The arrest, torture and killing of ThankGod Michael by operatives of OFT.

Location of incident: Edepie Community, Yenagoa

Date of investigation: 30th September, 2011

Report: By Alagoa Morris [State Secretary]

INTRODUCTION:

Just as Bayelsans were coming to terms with the truth that the notorious special security outfit established by the state government, Operation Famou Tangbei [OFT] has been disbanded and basking in that euphoria, another information reach CLO that a certain young man accused of rape fell victim to disbanded OFT few days before it was scrapped by the Federal Government. CLO swung into action, as usual to get details of the incident, more so as there is indication that some unscrupulous persons in high places are sponsoring protests calling for the return of the disbanded outfit; which is not what the public expects to happen. CLO followed the lead and finally identified relations to the victim and took testimonies. The information was confirmed to be true and that already lawyers to the family had written to the Commissioner of police on the matter. This report is a brief of the issue. Below are the details.

When CLO's investigator arrive Edepie, contact was established with a volunteer who led CLO to another lady. This lady was the one who finally guided CLO to an elder brother to the latest victim of OFT. At his home he briefed CLO about the incident and how the family has tried to pursue justice.

Comrade Otex Seaboy.... I am Comrade Otex Seaboy, a former Youth President and CDC Chairman of Edepie community. I am an indigene of this community. Let me let you into what I know about this matter. I was not in town when I was informed that my younger brother, ThankGod Michael was being accused of raping a certain girl in this community. Those accused him include: Ochally Odum, Emperor Kofi, Mrs. Peace Emperor and Ovie Kofi. I pleaded with the relations of the girl to exercise patience until I return so that we can investigate the matter and deal with the issue appropriately. When I returned from Port Harcourt I approached those who accused my brother of the crime and we were trying to settle the matter. My brother denied the allegation when we reached him on phone; that he never did such a thing. At that particular time too, the accused young man was not in town for about three weeks before. To our surprise when ThankGod Michael returned home on the 17th of September, 2011 he was weeping when he told us he didn't commit the crime he was being accused of. But Ochally made a phone call to Operation Famou Tangbe and, before we knew what was going on, some arms bearing men wearing black clothes arrived at the Community. They parked their white Hilux across the road, along the Chief Melford Okilo Expressway (facing Agudama). They were led by those who accused my brother to arrest him. Immediately they identified and arrested him they started to beat him right before our eyes. And when some of us tried to plead with them to take it easy with our brother whom they were brutalizing, they threatened to deal with any of us who get close as they were beating him; that we should keep our mouth shut else they will shoot us. They [Operatives of OFT] later moved him to their vehicle across the road and drove off towards Agudama. But, one funny thing was that we saw when Ochally counted some money and gave to

these men before they drove off with ThankGod Michael at about 12:00 [Noon] on the 17th of September, 2011.

After the above we tried to locate where the 26-year-old ThankGod Michael was taken to. We went to all the police stations in Yenagoa and even the OFT office but we couldn't trace him. At the OFT office they even showed us a list of alleged rapists. Eleven [11] names were in that list but we didn't see our brother's name. When the father of ThankGod Michael came he also went to the Akenfa Police station. He is an A.S.P [a Warder] in the Prison's service, presently serving at Degema in Rivers State.

What we later heard from a boy from Otuasega community who was also detained at the OFT cells when ThankGod Michael was taken there is very sad. The boy whose relations later secured his release from OFT revealed that at about 10:00 PM, the night of 18th September, 2011 our brother was led to the torture chamber and tied upside down; suspended from the floor. He was beaten and asked to confess the crime of RAPE which, he repeated said he knew nothing about. He continued to plead his innocence and, while still hanging upside down his captors left him and went out. Unfortunately, by the time they returned to check ThankGod, he was no longer alive. That was how he died.

We have not even seen the corpse, but through our Lawyer we have written to the Commissioner of Police to help us find our brother. Even today we are going to the State C.I.D to get an update as to whether they have anything positive to tell us. And, as I speak with you now all those who accused my brother of the crime in the community has fled the community especially as they must have been informed that the young man has been tortured to death. We are not trying to chase anybody now, but we want the Police authorities to produce our brother, ThankGod Michael. If they cannot produce him then we can only accept what we heard that he was tortured to death at the OFT office and, that may be the beginning of another case because according to the Nigerian constitution an accused is presumed innocent until such a person is found guilty in a court of competent jurisdiction. We shall follow whatever legal advice we get from our lawyer and other concerned citizens on this matter.....

Follow up is needful....

Due to time constraints, CLO could not reach out to other family members to obtain more details or confirmation. But this is not the end, as CLO will follow up later, even to get a photograph of ThankGod Michael.

Conclusion:

It was obvious to CLO that the incident was not a concocted story. Operatives of OFT sometimes used to wear black cloths and the threat they issued while the brutalized the young man before taking him away was an unmistakable characteristics of the outfit. The testimony of the person from Otuasega is very important and CLO should follow up to hear from the man who brought the news about the death of ThankGod in the hands of OFT. Only proper investigation and justice would be accepted in this and similar Human Rights violations committed by operatives of the disbanded security outfit.

A Call for Justice and Peace in Bayelsa State

We are very concerned Bayelsa people and we want to be assured of the safety and security of our citizens during and after the upcoming elections. Some Civil Society Groups had already called on the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to facilitate the prosecution of the sponsors of OFT to assuage the fears of Bayelsa people about the security of lives and property in the State. We also want the Police to launch investigations into the causes of the cult war in Yenagoa and other parts of the State which led to the killing of about Forty (40) persons in the months of August and September 2011. Other established cases of extra-judicial murder which the IGP should investigate include the killing of Mr. Freddie Philip Ockiya (22) and Mr. Karina Frank-Oputu by the OFT. While the Civil Liberties Organization and other Civil Society Groups continue to investigate all other reported cases of extra-judicial murder, we passionately appeal to the Inspector General of Police to commence investigations of the aforementioned cases without delay and bring culprits to book. Without this proactive step, the activities of OFT and involvement of government and other Bayelsa People would continue to elicit animosity, mutual suspicion and even instigate violence in Bayelsa State, in the foreseeable future. It was Dwight David Eisenhower the 34th American President who said “Though force can protect in emergency, only justice, fairness, consideration and cooperation can finally lead men to the dawn of eternal peace.”. Bayelsa people deserve no less.

Civil Liberties Organization

Bayelsa State

October 2, 2011

Fears in Bayelsa over scrapping of police squad Operation Famou Tangbei (OFT) -

<http://dinquistor.blogspot.com.ng/2011/09/fears-in-bayelsa-over-scrapping-of.html>

There was tension in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, on Sunday following the scrapping of the special police squad codenamed Operation Famou Tangbei by the Force Headquarters, Abuja. Our correspondent learnt that the proscription of the outfit reportedly on the orders of the Inspector-General of Police, Hafiz Ringim, had not gone down well with some politicians in the state.

There were fears in the state capital that some politicians were planning to engineer violence in order to compel police authorities to review its decision to prohibit the operations of the outfit. But the state chapter of the Civil Liberties Organisation and the Action Congress of Nigeria asked the Federal Government to set up a committee to investigate allegations of torture and extra-judicial killings by members of the outfit.

The state Secretary of CLO, Mr. Morris Alagoa, said the scrapping of the police squad was a welcome development and commended the media, the Nigeria Bar Association and civil society groups for their criticisms against alleged human rights abuses by the squad.

The National Youth Leader, ACN, Mr. Miriki Ebikibina, also asked the IG to investigate the activities of the outfit.

He said such a committee was “imperative in view of the need to take appropriate steps in sanitising the battered image of the nation’s police force.”

While noting that security should be the concern of everybody, he urged the state government, to “convene a stakeholders’ meeting, irrespective of political affiliations, class and ethnic divide to fashion out more civil ways of ensuring effective security in the state.”

Alagoa highlighted allegations of torture, extra-judicial killings, extortion and harassment of civilians levelled against the squad observing that the OFT was highhanded in its operations.

He said, “The CLO lauds the scrapping of Operation Famou Tangbei because the outfit was becoming a greater monster that threatened both perceived criminals and law abiding citizens, violating the peoples’ fundamental human rights and taking away their dignity in the process.

“The CLO calls on the federal and state authorities not to reintroduce the same terror group in another guise. Rather, the CLO is using this medium to demand the proper investigation of all cases of extra-judicial killings and torture perpetrated by officers and men of the disbanded OFT. And all those found culpable should be made to face the law and punished for their crimes.”

While noting that some aspects of the disbanded OFT were commendable, especially in the area of swift responses to distress calls, he said the outfit did not live up to the good intentions the state government had in mind before its establishment.

WHY THE SPONSORS AND OPERATORS OF FAMOU-TANGBEI IN BAYELSA STATE SHOULD BE PROSECUTED

By Barr. Eghosa Osaro

We wish to thank the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces Dr. Goodluck Jonathan for ensuring the disbandment of the notorious Operation Famou-Tangbei in Bayelsa State. It is a decision that is long overdue to bring succor to the inhabitants of Bayelsa State. We believe Mr. President has once more demonstrated government's responsiveness to the aspirations of the people.

We reckon that security is the first law of nature and no administration will do anything to compromise the security of her citizens. However, there are times political power holders because of overzealousness and the tendency to protect their personal estates, are tempted to use official security for their personal advantage. This is exactly what happened to Operation Famou-Tangbei, OFT in Yenagoa. OFT was established when militancy was at its peak and there was a need to reduce crime. It was for that same reason that the Federal Government initiated the Amnesty Programme in the Niger Delta Region. Now, with the Amnesty Programme, OFT has outlived its usefulness.

We represent seven Civil Society Organizations in the Niger Delta. When the issue of the excesses of OFT was reported to us, we conducted investigations into their activities. We discovered that while the outfit was established to reduce crime; it has rather exacerbated criminal activities. We therefore hereunder buttress the reasons for the timeous actions of the Federal Government.

There are several reasons why the OFT squad should not only be disbanded but its key sponsors and operator prosecuted. A few of these reasons are outlined:

- 1. OFT AS AN INSTRUMENT OF INTIMIDATION AND POLITICAL REPRESSION:** The Operation Famou-Tangbe OFT outfit was an instrument of political repression and intimidation. The present administration has used OFT to intimidate, maim and harass members of opposition parties in Bayelsa State. This has been the complaint by the opposition Labour Party in the State during and after the April elections. Rather than maintain peace and security, OFT became an instrument of intimidation like the Gestapo under Nazi Germany.
- 2. OFT AND EXTORTION OF MONEY IN AND AROUND YENAGOA:** There are many reported cases where people paid undisclosed sums of money to OFT Policemen to beat people up for trivial matters such as boy friend – girlfriend relationship etc. OFT also played the role of debt collectors and settlement of matrimonial issues. These are civil and domestic issues that have no relationship with security.

3. The OFT outfit became a handy tool in the hands of political office holders in Bayelsa State to seize land from the less-privileged and those who are not politically connected. It is not surprising that a Law maker and a Traditional Ruler could come out to condemn the disbandment of OFT. We also learnt that the present administration is desirous of using OFT to commit violence and rig the gubernatorial elections in Bayelsa State.

4. OFT IS A DRAIN ON THE BUDGET: The funding of OFT is a colossal drain on the budget of Bayelsa State. Officially, it is estimated that the sum of N150 Million is spent monthly to maintain the outfit. Research however showed that the Government spends the sum of N40 Million while the remaining N110 goes down the pockets of the sponsors and operators. Civil Society should pressure the Bayelsa State Government to account for huge sums of money spent to maintain the outfit.

5. SETTLEMENT OF DOMESTIC MATTERS SUCH AS MATRIMONIAL PROBLEMS: OFT operators saw themselves as above the regular police force. The head of the squad executed directives only from Government House and other corrupt government officers. The Commissioner for Police was not rich enough to give instructions to the body. If the operations of the squad are legal and within the ambit of law, why did the Commander refuse to take directives from the State Police Command?

6. SETTLEMENT OF PERSONAL SCORES: The death of the Plant Manager at Gilly-Helena Hotel Late Mr. Karina Frank-Oputu - who in Sept 2011, was beaten to death by OFT operatives in Yenagoa, is just one of several cases of unreported extra-judicial killings. Such cases are numerous in Bayelsa State and most of the victims could not complain for fear of been maimed or killed by OFT operatives.

7. SUPPORTING RIVAL CULT GROUPS and killing of opponents under the guise of curbing cultism. When you consider the circumstances of the killing of the 22 year old Freddie Philip Ockiya in Yenagoa, it is obvious that OFT operators behaved like cultists, who took delight in killing rivals. If they were fighting cultism, one would have expected that when somebody is arrested, the person is made to pass through due process of the rule of law as against summary execution. We are investigating several other cases of extra-judicial killings in the State.

Conclusion:

We interacted with some Bayelsa people who hailed the decision to disband the OFT outfit. In fact the announcement of disbandment kept so many Bayelsa people jubilating. The opinion of Bayelsa people was also sampled on facebook – the most popular social network. Among 200 views sampled, about 198 persons supported the disbandment of Famou-Tangbei. In fact a great many people are of the view that the sponsors and operatives should be tried for human rights violations against the background of sundry extra-judicial killings in the State. On the basis of this popular decision by the Inspector General of Police, it is ridiculous for a few persons to argue that the scrapping of OFT will bring back criminality are perhaps not aware of the strides government has recorded in the Amnesty Program. Amnesty has brought about relative peace in the Niger Delta Region and Bayelsa State is not an exception. We are grateful to President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan for taking proactive steps to stop the activities of the OFT killer squad.

Those who are raising eye brows about the disbandment of the notorious outfit in some national papers are beneficiaries of the nefarious activities of the squad. By implication, they

are enemies of the freedom we all savour in a democratic system of government. Bayelsa State is Mr. President's home State, which should be a reverting model of what the rule of law, stands for. The OFT outfit has exacerbated the problem of insecurity in Bayelsa State rather than Civil Society in the Niger Delta Region has started to document the numerous cases of killing especially the killings that subsume under extra-judicial murders or killing without the due process of law. When the compilation is done, the federal government will be furnished with more information on the activities of OFT. With such cast-iron evidence, human rights lawyers will determine whether or not the sponsors and culprits of such massive human rights violations will be prosecuted.

We the undersigned categorically call on the Presidency and the Forces Headquarters to immediately set up a panel to investigate their activities and bring the culprits to book for full restitution. We demand justice and the enforcement of the fundamental rights of all Nigerians including the people of Bayelsa State.

Barr. Eghosa Osaro
Civil Liberties Organization

Read more at: <https://www.modernghana.com/news/355000/why-the-sponsors-and-operators-of-famou-tangbei-in-bayelsa-s.html>

Fresh Air Of Peace Under Threat In Bayelsa

•As Ban On Famou Tangbei Causes Tension

Written by Oluwole Ige Saturday, 08 October 2011

When the speculation became rife about a week ago that the dreaded “Operation Famou Tangbei,” a special security outfit, constituted by the administration of Chief Timipre Sylva had been outlawed by the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr Hafiz Ringim, majority of Bayelsans rolled out the drums and celebrated the seeming end of lawlessness and brutality in the oil-rich state of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan.

Why are they exuding joy over the disbandment of the special squad in the face of growing crime rate and threat to national security by the dreaded Boko Haram, who has succeeded in defeating Nigerians psychologically as far as warfare is concerned? Saturday Tribune went to town to feel the pulse of the Ijaw people over the development.

It is no longer news that many innocent Bayelsans had been killed in controversial circumstances by the overzealous security operatives of Famou Tangbei between January and now. Some of them had been maimed and subjected to inhuman treatment, which they would never forget for the rest of their lives.

In Izion local dialect, Famou Tangbei simply means “torture, maim and throw away.” This security outfit being funded directly by the office of the Special Adviser on Security to Governor Timipre Sylva, Mr Richard Kpodoh, was formed last year to combat crime in a state notorious for cultism and other crimes that could upset the peace in the Niger Delta.

But, one thing that cannot be taken away from the security squad was their swift response to distress calls whenever there was breach to public peace within the state capital and beyond, even along the coastal lines. Their new vans were ubiquitous and their men were well kitted to tackle criminal elements in Bayelsa State.

Headed by a young ASP (names withheld), Famou Tangbei was able, to a greater extent, restore peace and confidence of investors in the 15-year-old state. But keen observers of socio-political issues in Bayelsa began to be suspicious when the security outfit, which consists of some bad eggs, decided to turn Nigeria’s constitution upside down by engaging in alleged extra-judicial killings and maiming of defenceless citizens, most especially along the streets of Yenagoa.

Even journalists were not spared as the men and officers of the outfit unleashed reign of terror in the President’s state, with just eight local government councils.

Investigations conducted by Saturday Tribune revealed that the excesses of Famou Tangbei reached the peak when, about two weeks ago, an attendant in a popular hotel along the popular Imgbi Road, was allegedly tortured to death on the suspicion that he stole N75,000 belonging to a lodger. Though the accusation was later discovered to be false, the young man did not have the opportunity to defend himself over the allegation.

A young boy, who recently came for a social function from Port Harcourt, having gained admission to a higher institution, was found missing after officers of the security force raided an area in the state capital. Efforts to locate him proved abortive as he could not be found by his troubled relations.

Another horrible case was a boy who was apprehended by the overzealous mobile policemen, who formed the nucleus of the special security outfit. Reports indicated that he was ordered to jump into a swampy stream or face the wrath of hot lead which would be pumped into him from the AK 47 rifles of the trigger-happy policemen. Terrified by the dicey situation, the boy was between the devil and the red blue sea. He could not swim. When the threat became unbearable, he chose to jump into the stream and got drowned. That was his tragic end.

Towards this end, pundits became worried over the motives behind the formation of the outfit and came up with the conclusion that it was a political machinery being sufficiently oiled to assist in actualising the second term bid of the state governor, Chief Timipre Sylva. His political platform, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), is billed to hold its primaries in November, ahead of February 2012, when the governorship election is expected to hold.

However, the outcome of the Supreme Court's judgment in the tenure elongation case instituted against five governors, who did not feature for gubernatorial poll by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), would be the determining factor for the much-awaited election to hold.

Worried by the astronomical rise in cases of gross human rights abuse, Civil Liberties Organisations (CLO), the Amnesty International (AI) and brutalised Ijaws petitioned the office of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to checkmate the tension created by Famou Tangbei before and after its disbandment.

This subsequently culminated in the immediate ban on the operations of the security outfit and it generated mixed feelings among the people.

Investigations by Saturday Tribune showed that the Special Security Adviser, Mr Kpodoh, whose office was saddled with the responsibilities of funding the outfit allegedly sponsored or stage-managed peaceful protests to whip up sentiments in favour of possible reinstatement.

However, this arrangement was greeted with sharp criticisms from the civil rights organisations and other bodies, including the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Bayelsa State chapter and the opposition parties, who are calling for the immediate arrest and prompt prosecution of Sylva's adviser on security.

Regrettably, however, the peace of a graveyard in the oil-rich state caved in on the night of the nation's 51st Independence Anniversary celebration. Residents of Yenagoa trembled in fear as police patrol team attacked some youths along Imgbi Street, off popular Punch Road around 8.00 p.m, on Saturday, firing shots at close range at the fleeing young Nigerians, who were in a celebration mood.

Saturday Tribune was authoritatively informed that as the youths scampered for safety, one of them, along with his twin brother, was allegedly shot at close range by the trigger-happy security operatives.

A witness said that the security operatives deliberately opened fire on the crowd and a 23-year-old boy, simply identified as Peremuwei Sakori, was shot in the abdomen and part of his stomach was ripped open.

At the Emergency Ward of the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Yenagoa, where he was rushed to by his aged mother and sister, he was sighted battling to survive, as medical experts hurriedly administered drugs on him.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Eguaveon Emopkae, would not pick his calls, but later stated that the incident, which occurred at A Division of the state Police Command, whose jurisdiction covers Amarata, had not been reported to his office.

“I cannot tell you anything concrete now because the division has failed to send any report.”

As of the time of filing this report, the boy was responding to treatment.

via [Tribune](#)

THE RESPONSE OF CHIEF (DR.) TIMPRE SYLVA TO OPERATION FAMOU TANGBEI'S ISSUE

An Interview conducted by The Sun Newspaper on 24 October, 2011

REPORTER:

Recently, the Inspector-General of Police disbanded the state security outfit, Operation Famou Tangbei, and there has been so much hoopla over the action. Were you consulted before it was disbanded?

CHIEF (DR) TIMPRE SYLVA:

Well, we had been discussing it but it was not necessarily my outfit. It was more or less an outfit of the Nigeria police. It was like the Operation Sweep or Operation Flush of the police. In Bayelsa, we only decided to use an indigenous Ijaw name for the outfit so that it would evoke something in the minds of the people. Famou Tangbei means sweep and throw away, literally speaking. Operation Famou Tangbei had nothing to do with me as a person. It was under the Commissioner of Police.

The only thing is that it was discussed in a security council meeting because of the increase in crime in Bayelsa at the time. That was after the era of militancy when most of the persons that came out of the creeks were now on land with us and we saw a few armed robbery and some criminal activities in Yenagoa. So we had to respond to it. In the security council it was agreed that the police should set up an anti-robbery squad. So instead of calling it an anti-robbery squad, we decided to call it Operation Famou Tangbei. It had nothing to do with me. And because it is an outfit of the police, the IG and the Commissioner of Police discussed it.

Even now it has not been disbanded; it is erroneous. All the IG said was that there were reports of recklessness by operatives of Operation Famou Tangbei and he needed to react to those reports. What he said was that they have to reorganise it and this is normal in any law enforcement situation.



REPORTER:

Were some of these reports verifiable because there were allegations that the outfit was involved in extra-judicial killings and that it was used to intimidate your opponents?

CHIEF (DR) TIMIPRE SYLVA:

It is not true. I had nothing to do with Operation Famou Tangbei. They even said I had a place in Government House where we were burying bodies. I mean, it is very sad for me because if you know what I stand for, those kind of stories should not be associated with me. It is unfortunate that this is the nature of this business. It is normal that Operation Famou Tangbei would mount roadblock and they could stop the vehicle of an opposition party member. Each time we heard such stories about Operation Famou Tangbei, we invited them to our security council meeting and we found out that there was nothing.

You see, when they want to hang a dog, they call it a bad name. They take all kinds of outrageous pictures, maybe from the Internet, and attach them to their petitions. Why is it that Bayelsans are now calling back for it if it was that bad? They are the ones clamouring for Operation Famou Tangbei to be brought back. *Bayelsans did not jubilate because they see that it has been doing a very good job.* So they have been putting out all kinds of stories out there because they wanted to do evil. They wanted to remove Operation Famou Tangbei so they can do their havoc. I tell them that I don't need it as a person to secure myself. So let them tell us what other way of law enforcement apart from the Nigeria police.

Culled From The Sun Newspaper

Bayelsa Ag Gov sacks Sylva's security adviser

Yenagoa, February 2, 2012 12:50 am In News Comments

By Samuel Oyadongha

Acting Governor of Bayelsa State, Chief Nestor Binabo, yesterday, continued with the dismantling of former Governor Timipre Sylva's structure with the sack of his Special Adviser on Security Matters, Mr Richard Kpodoh. Kpodoh's office was in charge of the defunct dreaded terror machine, Operation Famou Tangbei, which allegedly tortured, killed and maimed several citizens in the state as well as witch-hunt political opponents of the former governor. Operation Famou Tangbei was disbanded last September by former Inspector-General of Police, after Abuja's investigation and an avalanche of petitions indicting the special security outfit. Kpodoh's sack was contained in a statement by the new Secretary to the State Government, SSG, Prof Millionaire Abowei. The statement directed him to, without delay, hand over all government documents and vehicles in his possession to the office of the SSG and wished him well in his future endeavours.

Read more at: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/02/bayelsa-ag-gov-sacks-sylvas-security-adviser/>



U. S. Department of State

Diplomacy in Action

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2011/af/186229.htm>

2011 Human Rights Reports: Nigeria

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

[2011 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices](#)

Report: May 24, 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nigeria is a federal republic of 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). On April 16, President Goodluck Jonathan of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP), who had assumed the presidency in May 2010 following his predecessor's death, won election to a four-year term, along with Vice President Mohammed Namadi Sambo, also of the PDP. International and domestic election observers considered the April presidential, gubernatorial, and legislative elections to be generally credible, orderly, and a substantial improvement over the flawed 2007 elections. However, there were reports of fraud and irregularities, including vote rigging and buying, under-age voting, ballot stuffing, and political violence. Immediately following the presidential election, supporters of the opposition Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) candidate, Muhammadu Buhari, a northern Muslim, challenged the outcome of the election. Postelection violence in protest of Jonathan's victory erupted in the north and in the Middle Belt States, directed towards local grievances and political targets, resulting in loss of lives, property damage, and restrictions of movement. The April 9 legislative elections produced major changes in the National Assembly, as only about one-third of the incumbents in both houses were reelected, and opposition parties gained many seats. While security forces generally reported to civilian authorities, elements of the security forces periodically acted independently of civilian control.

The most serious human rights problems during the year were the abuses committed by the militant sect known as Boko Haram, which was responsible for killings, bombings, and other attacks throughout the country, resulting in numerous deaths, injuries, and the widespread destruction of property; abuses committed by the security services with impunity, including killings, beatings, arbitrary detention, and destruction of property; and societal violence, including ethnic, regional, and religious violence.

Other serious human rights problems included sporadic abridgement of citizens' right to change their government, due to some election fraud and other irregularities; politically motivated and extrajudicial killings by security forces, including summary executions; security force torture, rape, and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of prisoners, detainees, and criminal suspects; harsh and life-threatening prison and detention center

conditions; arbitrary arrest and detention; prolonged pretrial detention; denial of fair public trial; executive influence on the judiciary and judicial corruption; infringements on citizens' privacy rights; restrictions on freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion, and movement; official corruption; violence and discrimination against women; child abuse; female genital mutilation (FGM); the killing of children suspected of witchcraft; child sexual exploitation; ethnic, regional, and religious discrimination; trafficking in persons for the purpose of prostitution and forced labor; discrimination against persons with disabilities; discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; vigilante killings; forced and bonded labor; and child labor.

Impunity was widespread at all levels of government. The government brought few persons to justice for abuses and corruption. Police generally operated with impunity. Authorities did not investigate the majority of cases of police abuse or punish perpetrators. Authorities generally did not hold police accountable for the use of excessive or deadly force or for the deaths of persons in custody.

The militant sect known as Boko Haram perpetrated killings and bomb attacks throughout the country. The sect continued to mount regular assaults and bombings in Borno and Bauchi states. The sect claimed responsibility for the January 1 bombing of the Mogadishu Barracks in Abuja, the July 16 suicide bombing of the police headquarters in Abuja, and the August 26 suicide bombing of the UN headquarters in Abuja. By the end of the year, the government and Boko Haram had not engaged in dialogue.

Killings and kidnappings by militant groups in the Niger Delta continued, despite then president Yar'Adua's offer of amnesty in October 2009. However, most militant groups in the Niger Delta accepted the amnesty, and the level of violence there was lower.

Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from:

a. Arbitrary or Unlawful Deprivation of Life

The government or its agents committed numerous arbitrary or unlawful killings.

During the year the Joint Task Force (JTF), a unit formed in 2003 to restore stability in the Niger Delta and composed of elements of the military, police, and security services, conducted raids on militant groups and criminal suspects in the Niger Delta and Borno State, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries to both alleged criminals and civilians. According to credible eyewitness accounts, the JTF committed illegal killings during attempts to apprehend members of the extremist group Boko Haram ("Western education is anathema," in Hausa) in Borno State and surrounding areas. For example, on July 9 the JTF reportedly committed illegal killings in response to a Boko Haram bombing in Maiduguri, Borno State. Local residents, media, and the international nongovernmental organization (NGO) Amnesty International (AI) reported that the JTF killed at least 23 and up to 40 persons, destroyed property, illegally detained residents, and raped women in the vicinity of the bomb blast.

Credible reports also indicated that other uniformed military personnel and paramilitary mobile police carried out summary executions, assaults, and other abuses across the Niger Delta and Borno State (see section 1.g.). The national police, the army, and other security

forces committed extrajudicial killings and used lethal and excessive force to apprehend criminals and suspects, as well as to disperse protesters. Authorities generally did not hold police accountable for the use of excessive or deadly force or for the deaths of persons in custody. Police generally operated with impunity in the illegal apprehension, detention, and sometimes execution of criminal suspects. The reports of state or federal panels of inquiry investigating suspicious deaths remained unpublished.

For example, on September 12, members of the police unit Operation Famou Tangbei (OFT) raided the home of Freddie Philip Ockiya in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. Members of the OFT arrested Ockiya and took him to the local police station. His family searched for him until September 21, when his body was discovered at the morgue. The family filed a suit against members of the police and government in a federal high court. The inspector general of police disbanded the OFT in late September, but authorities did not arrest any members of the OFT in connection with Ockiya's death by year's end.

On October 15, the Special Task Force (STF) allegedly killed Ward Head Alhaji Ahmadu Ali Kazaure in Jos. The STF attacked the area after unknown assailants killed one soldier.

The 2010 annual report of the Police Service Commission identified 253 pending disciplinary cases for misconduct by police officers. The report also said that the commission had received 91 appeals and petitions during the year.

In April 2010 the Maiduguri High Court found that in 2009 police detained and subsequently killed Baba Fagu, the father-in-law of then Boko Haram leader Muhammad Yusuf, following violent clashes between police and militant members of Boko Haram in four northern states in 2009. The court ordered the federal and state governments to pay 100 million naira (\$617,000) as compensation to Fagu's family. The Borno State government challenged the Maiduguri High Court's decision and appealed the judgment. At year's end the case remained in the Court of Appeals in Jos, Plateau State.

In 2009 soldiers arrested Muhammad Yusuf. Credible media reports claimed that police executed Yusuf, whose bruised body subsequently was seen at state police headquarters with multiple bullet wounds. While police initially admitted killing Yusuf in custody, they subsequently claimed he died while trying to escape. Buji Fai, a former state government official suspected of funding Boko Haram, also reportedly died in custody along with Fagu. Later that year, then president Yar'Adua pledged to conduct a full investigation of the Boko Haram uprising, including the circumstances surrounding Yusuf's death, but authorities had not publicly released the results of the investigation by year's end. On July 19, five police officers were arraigned in the federal high court in Abuja for the murder of Yusuf. The court granted bail to four of the officers, while one remained in custody. The case continued at year's end.

In 2009 AI published *Killing at Will: Extrajudicial Executions and Other Unlawful Killings by the Police in Nigeria*, which documented 39 cases of security force killings and enforced disappearances based on interviews and research conducted between July 2007 and July 2009. According to the report, national police were responsible for hundreds of extrajudicial executions, other unlawful killings, and enforced disappearances each year. In a country where "bribes guarantee safety," those who could not afford to pay risked being shot or tortured to death. Authorities did not investigate the majority of cases or punish perpetrators. When investigations occurred, they did not comply with international standards, and officers

suspected of extrajudicial executions generally were sent away on training or transferred to other states instead of being prosecuted. Police often claimed that the victim was an armed robber killed in an exchange of gunfire or a suspect killed while trying to escape police custody. AI charged that Police Force Order 237, which permits officers to shoot suspects and detainees who attempt to escape or avoid arrest, “lets the police get away with murder.”

A panel established by Plateau State to investigate the killings of approximately 700 civilians by security forces in the Jos North local government area in 2008 attributed the violence to provocation by religious leaders as well as violence by political parties and local government officials. The panel’s full report, released in April 2010, linked persons wearing uniforms to impersonate police with many of the killings; the report did not find definitive evidence of police or military involvement in extrajudicial killings. By year’s end authorities had neither charged nor punished anyone for the killings. In February 2010 President Jonathan called for a second investigative committee following an outbreak of violence earlier in the year. In September 2010 this body, known as the “Lar Committee,” submitted its recommendations, which included establishment of a truth and reconciliation committee, ending the indigene-settler dichotomy, and redesigning the Plateau State capital.

Following further violence in August, President Jonathan announced that the government would work to harmonize all previous reports on the Jos crisis with the intention of publishing a white paper on the crisis. In addition the Plateau State Assembly called for the establishment of a truth and reconciliation committee, as recommended in the Lar Committee report. However, the committee’s recommendations had yet to be implemented, and neither the federal nor the Plateau State government set up truth and reconciliation committees by year’s end.

Police use of excessive force, including live ammunition, to disperse demonstrators resulted in numerous killings during the year. For example, on February 11, Ekiti police reportedly shot and killed five persons protesting the announcement of the relocation of a federal university to Oye-Ekiti that the state governor previously had promised would be located in the Ado-Ekiti community. Authorities had neither charged nor punished anyone for the killings by year’s end.

Police used gunfire to control or disperse political rallies, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries. For example, on February 12, police attempting to control the flow of participants at a PDP rally in a Port Harcourt stadium fired into the air. The gunfire prompted a stampede resulting in the death of 20 persons. Authorities had neither charged nor punished anyone for the incident by year’s end.

In 2010 AI released the report *Port Harcourt Demolitions: Excessive Use of Force Against Demonstrators*, which documented an attack in 2009 in which police and the JTF fired into a crowd of citizens peacefully protesting the proposed demolition of their homes. The report stated that the JTF shot and seriously injured at least 12 persons, and witnesses claimed that they saw six bodies in a police vehicle. Authorities had neither charged nor punished anyone for the killings by year’s end.

Violence and lethal force at unauthorized police and military roadblocks and checkpoints continued, despite numerous announcements by the police inspector general that independent police roadblocks would be eliminated and offenders punished. According to AI’s 2009 report, police often stopped commercial drivers and asked them to pay bribes, the amount of

which depended on the weight of the vehicle. Police shot drivers when they refused to pay, when a disagreement occurred over the price, or when it remained unclear whether they had paid. These police practices continued during the year.

On August 14, police in Anambra State reportedly shot five persons at a roadblock after they would not pay a bribe of 20 naira (\$0.13). One of the passengers reportedly died at the scene, while the other four were rushed to a hospital, where they were pronounced dead. Eyewitnesses stated that the driver claimed to already have paid 20 naira but could not produce a receipt that the policeman demanded. When the driver attempted to leave, the police opened fire. A police representative confirmed that one person was killed and three were rushed to the hospital. There were no developments in the case by year's end.

For example, on October 16, police reportedly shot and killed Victor Emmanuel in Bayesla State after he criticized the police for extorting money from passing motorists on the road from his church. On October 28, police officials announced that the accused officers received an "orderly room trial" that could lead to dismissal or prosecution; however, the case remained pending at year's end.

Police sometimes shot bystanders by mistake. For example, on September 10, four federal police officers guarding a funeral procession in Akoko, Delta State, opened fire on mourners after drinking heavily, killing at least three persons. A police spokesman confirmed the incident but offered no explanation for the actions of the officers. The police force dismissed the four officers, and at year's end the four officers remained in custody awaiting the filing of criminal charges.

Police and military personnel used excessive and sometimes deadly force to quell civil unrest and interethnic violence, and to deal with property vandalism. For example, on June 12, antiriot police reportedly shot protesters in Ogoni, Rivers State. After villagers gathered to protest excessive use of force by police during an earlier protest over the construction of a military base in a nearby village, police attempted to arrest the protesters. Police reportedly opened fire, killing three persons. The Rivers State government reportedly investigated, but there were no developments in the case by year's end.

On October 20, police shot and killed a girl and injured her two sisters while they were working in the fields of their family's farm in Ekiti State. Local residents angered by the shooting protested outside the police station. When they would not disperse, police opened fire, injuring at least six individuals. On October 24, Ekiti State Governor Kayode Fayemi criticized the killing and called for an immediate investigation. An investigation remained pending at year's end.

Boko Haram increased its attacks on police and security forces, banks, bars and restaurants, religious sites, and government buildings in the north and the FCT. Shootings and bombings in Maiduguri, Borno State, occurred on a weekly--and sometimes daily--basis throughout the year, and violence spread to neighboring Yobe, Bauchi, and Adamawa states by year's end. Targeted attacks on key institutions and buildings in the capital of Abuja contributed to an increase in the overall level of violence (see section 1.g.).

<http://nigeriantimes.ng/>

Sylva promoted cultism, secret killings in Bayelsa- Dickson

June 8, 2015



The Bayelsa State Governor, Mr Seriake Dickson, on Monday accused his predecessor, ex-governor Timipre Sylva, of promoting cultism, secret killings and brigandage during his years as governor of the state.

Dickson, who was apparently reacting to comments by the former governor that he (Dickson) was ruling the people of the state by intimidation and fear, noted that brigandage remained the hallmark of Sylva's time as governor of the oil-rich state.

In a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Daniel Iworiso-Markson, the governor contended that Sylva's remarks smacked of those of a man who had lost focus and not in touch with current realities.

"Sylva remarks epitomised those of a man, who has lost focus and not in touch with the realities on the ground. It is heart-warming that he (Sylva) is not accusing me of multiple crimes and criminality, secret killings, cultism, large scale corruption and brigandage, which were the hallmarks of his tenure as governor of Bayelsa State.

“Sylva’s era as governor of Bayelsa was the darkest days in the history of the state. Bayelsans have become wiser and would not be cajoled or hoodwinked by his antics. If Sylva is a wise man, he would have seen the writing on the wall, that Bayelsans have since rejected him by voting massively for the Peoples Democratic Party in all the recent elections”, Dickson said.

The governor counselled Mr Sylva to forget about returning as governor of the state, noting that results of recent elections showed that the people of the state have roundly rejected him.

“As a clear manifestation of the people’s total dislike for Sylva, he lost in his unit, ward and constituency in the state and National Assembly polls that were conducted recently in the state. These are ominous signals that he can’t be governor again”, Dickson said.

Sylva had declared last week, that the PDP was dead in Bayelsa and that the APC would capture the state in the governorship election scheduled for later this year.

“Governor Seriake Dickson is ruling the state by fear and intimidation. And when you rule by intimidating your people, then the loyalty is liable to break under any form of stress. Once you rule a people by fear and not love, it will break. The time for that loyalty to break is now”, Sylva had said.



Timipre Sylva

Bayelsa: Sylva rues mistakes in office, begs for forgiveness

[UCHENNA NWAFOR, Yenagoa](#), September 1, 2015 [Latest News](#), [News](#) Comments Off on Bayelsa: Sylva rues mistakes in office, begs for forgiveness 336 Views

Former Bayelsa State Governor, Chief Timipre Sylva, has asked his kinsmen in his home community of Okpoama in Brass Local Government Area of the state to forgive him for his perceived shortcomings during his tenure.

Sylva was governor of Bayelsa State from May 2008 to January 27, 2012, when his tenure was terminated by the Supreme Court of Nigeria for electoral fraud.

Sylva, while speaking at the weekend during a unity rally and reception held in his honour as leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state, said his political travails in the hands of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) that led to him being denied the party's ticket to run for a second term in office as governor and his return as the state's Leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC) have opened his eyes to the fact that only God can forgive.

According to Sylva, “If I have learnt any lesson from my travails, it is only the fact that it is only God that forgives. I have forgiven those that offended me. And I also urged those of you that I have offended to forgive me.”

Sylva, who described the decision by the Traditional Ruler, King Ebitimi Banigo, and the Council of Chiefs in Okpoama kingdom, to honour him as “a blessing”, called on the people of the community to consider the Honour and the Unity Rally as an indication of renewed unity.

“It is a legacy of unity that the kingdom has laid. I want to pledge my continued loyalty to the community. Let us put aside our differences and become an epitome for other communities.

“If you think you have sea deity, you have not seen anything yet. God is the only beginning for us. Today is not only a day for unity but it will bring development. Let us do away with (the) plague of poverty,” he said.

One-time Minister of Science and Technology and the Traditional Ruler of the Okpoama Kingdom, King Ebitimi Banigo, while conferring on Chief Sylva the chieftaincy title, described him as a true leader, saying that “ his ability to stand tall as a political leader and unite the people is worthy of honour.”

Banigo, who said Sylva is a prophet not recognised in his home town, said, “today, we are putting that behind us and recognising our son as a true gift from us to the nation and the world. It is easy to sit up and take notice. But it is another to sit up and take action. He has turned displeasure into success. He is a man of incredible character.”

Earlier, the Chairman of the Okpoama Unity Forum, Comrade Ebinimi Omubo, said the decision to organise the unity rally to coincide with the chieftaincy title bestowed on Chief Sylva was based on the need to bring together the divided people of the community and forge a common front.

“The unity rally is to unite our people and we are grateful to God for blessing us with Chief Timipre Sylva,” Banigo said.



DICKSON: HOLD SYLVA ACCOUNTABLE FOR STATE-SPONSORED MURDERS

Posted By: [starconnect](#) on: November 24, 2015 In: [Interview](#), [Top Story](#) [No Comments](#)

November 24, 2015 – Governor Henry Seriake Dickson in the run up to the December 5 governorship election in the state says he is presenting the state to the world in much better shape than he met it and is motivated to do even more. Excerpts!

How have you impacted Bayelsa's development and politics in your tenure so far?

We have changed the face of politics in this state where we have emphasized the importance of the people as the centre of all development. Take the issue of accountability. For example every month we announce what comes in in terms of revenue and how we spend them; it is empowerment of the people. We are empowering them mentally and democratically to take charge of their future. I believe that this will be a standard moving forward as far as governorship and other elections in this state are concerned. I heard that my good friend has intensified his campaign. That is how it should be, not threatening our people with federal might, hoping that INEC will write results for him, that SSS are his errand boys and JTF will handcuff people for him. He is flying around with helicopters but I am going around as a simple Governor on boats and trekking with the people because for me the people of this state must be liberated from these greedy persons that do not care about the development of the state. For them everything begins and ends with their selfish, pecuniary interest. I am taking our case of peace, security and development to the communities and telling the people your future is in your hands not in any Abuja or Lagos governor. You will be the ones to decide. I am very happy about the warm reception and the endorsements I have received. I am just coming from Agudama Ekpetiema and the women came out to tie wrapper on me, the men give me presents. So many of these people(our opponents) are disconnected from their voters. I am busy with the persons who will vote and as we move towards the election, Bayelsans will know that this federal might and security they are using to intimidate people will not work. Look at the election in Kogi, it was free and fair, one man one vote so Bayelsa should learn, there will be no federal might in Bayelsa. We are sensitizing the people that no one wearing uniform or any other colour will intimidate them. They will vote with their PVCs and protect their votes. There is no magic that can be performed for APC to win.

In the course of your campaign you have preached peace and security yet there was a clash between APC and PDP supporters in Ekeremor that led to the death of one Andrew John.

Let me use this opportunity to condemn any act of confrontation particularly violent confrontation especially when it leads to loss of life or injuries irrespective of the party of the

person affected. As the Governor it is my responsibility to protect everyone and their property. A situation where a minister goes to his community and openly threatens everybody that if they do not keep an eye on their child on election day the child will be killed, that is criminal. We should condemn those type of utterances. As for the incident at Ekeremor I have already issued a statement. Based on the preliminary report at my disposal, the gentleman who died was the one who attacked the PDP supporters who sought to erect a sign banner. From the report I have, he was rushed to the hospital for treatment and remained there for two days and then sought to leave the hospital against medical advice and went home believing he was well. Then he developed complications and died. The police are currently investigating so we await the full facts. In Gbarian Ekeptiama, PDP supporters were attacked and as we speak two are hospitalised. In other parts of the state such attacks are taking place but I condemn all of these. Let me use this opportunity to call on everyone particularly my supporters and party members, I do not want to hear any quarrel about posters and billboards and banners, because they do not win elections. I take the pains to go round to communities because I want to educate people not through banners and billboards. Do not worry if these people come and provoke you, do not argue, the elections will come and go in the next few weeks and all those banners and billboards will become useless. Focus on winning the elections, galvanizing supporters and telling the people to reject the government of killing and Famutangbe.

Bayelsans must not hobnob with these discredited people. This man could not do the intervention I did that enables him to drive to Nembe, he could not dualize the Azikoro road which I did. Under him for five years the road to Amassoma was impassable, he could not dream of electrifying communities and all he knew was promote insecurity and cultism. Unfortunately, because of greed, even people that were on exile during his government are supporting him. Many of them will end up in the belly of a tiger because this is a man who does not forget and does not forgive and has no compassion. I can call names but I do not want to do so, they know themselves. Why did they not join APC from the beginning? I do not know how many of them will be in NDDC, I do not know how many Directors and Board members we will have as he has promised them. They do not mind handing over the future of their own children. I condemn violence and I want to call on my good friend Chief Timipre Slyva and his party to also condemn it. They should make the kind of statement I am making, and condemn violence of every sort.

How confident are you that you will win this election and have you done enough in your current term to deserve the mandate of the people?

I have performed better than my good friend if we have built the number of schools we have built within this period in spite of the short fall in allocation. If we have done the sort of things my Government has done within this period. If I do not feel confident that I have done enough then I do not know the governor that should run for a second term because frankly if a governor were to do the sort of things I have done he will win. That is my view. I have interacted with our people and communities and they all say I deserve more than a second term. And so I am very confident.

Even a blind man will tell you that you cannot compare our performance and that the difference between me and Sylva is like that between day and night. In what area can you compare? In terms of acquiring liabilities and debts for our state? Or are you going to measure the performance by the number of killings in the state? In every area, talking about peace and security and development, we know that there is no comparison.

Talking about PDP losing traditional strongholds, there is nothing like losing traditional strongholds. The way the last general elections went, our party made mistakes in some areas, and in politics when you have been in power for this long you make mistakes; there are consequences attached. Bayelsa is different. We have a performing governor and given free and fair elections between myself and Timipre Slyva, forget the parties, There is no basis for comparison. That is why I am not surprised that communities are endorsing me. I have achieved what if a governor does in 8 years you will clap for him. Our people know it, people outside know it. And I am out to do more in a second term so I will get the second term by the grace of God.

Have you heard allegations that the opposition party is distributing police and army uniforms to their supporters to pose as security agents to enable them rig the election. If so, what are you doing about it? Secondly in your last media chat you described yourself as the countryman Governor and your good friend of the APC as the 'guy man'. What ideological connotations do these terms have?

To begin with the guy man. It is a guy man who in this environment of poor people who are suffering unleashes violence on the people to intimidate them while purportedly campaigning for their support. He is a guy man who has held political offices and was a governor for almost 5 years and does not have a house in the state capital to sleep in, not even a hut of his own, even in his own local government or community. Who is to develop your community for you? He is more travelled than I am, so he is right when he refers to me as I hear as a bush man. I say he is a guy man, he says I am a bush man but our people say I am a country man because a country man will use boat and canoe to see his country people which is the same transportation system they are used to. And I have slept in all local government areas including his own local government which he has not. I slept in southern Ijaw. Guy man should sleep there not hop in and out. Even as a governor he was hopping in and out of the country. That is a guy man but he is my good friend though we disagree fundamentally in terms of vision. In fact, he has no vision. You do not come to be a governor because of ego, because you want to blow siren or because you have friends in high places that can help you to get it. I was prepared for governorship. That is why when I came you can see how we have established a paradigm shift and if God helps and the people realise the need to protect their future, no guy man in Bayelsa can be governor again because this job is a serious job, one that requires a passion and commitment to do the people's business, to lift them out of poverty and under development not harbouring resentment or bitterness as a governor. When he was governor he surrounded himself with people who led him to abysmal failure instead of guiding him and then they abandoned him. When I came in as a governor, a number of them came around me and saw that 'kaki no be leather.'

I must take responsibility for my administration. Bayelsans will not remember any commissioner but the person who is in charge of them. That is what he does not know and that is why he says they should hold other people responsible for the atrocities of famutangbe. Up till now he does not get it that leadership is about responsibility.

On security, the security agencies are working on that and I want to use this opportunity to warn those who may be attempting that out of desperation that it will not work, it will land them in trouble. Security agencies are not fools and you young people do not believe when people tell you lies. I want to advise our young ones to go and vote whoever they want instead of being used because that will not work.

What form of assurance can you give to the electorate and the people of Bayelsa state regarding their safety as they file out December 5th to cast their vote?

I have confidence in the security forces. I always say that the security officers in Bayelsa are the best any governor will want to have. I have confidence in their expertise, their dedication to duty and professionalism. All I am asking as governor and candidate is for peace. I know that the citizens of this state have nothing to fear as far as their security is concerned, before during and after elections. And because this is an individual election, not a national one the security forces here will have a lot of support. For the Kogi election, the police alone deployed about sixteen thousand personnel. That is almost a lock down. Any criminal who decides to be used and those who choose to use criminals will not succeed. If the security forces do not stop felons, our people in every unit have been sensitised to stop them. My assurance is Bayelsans should not have any fear, security forces are doing their best, I know the arrangement and we should give them their support especially to those security personnel that will be doing the right thing. But you are under no obligation to cooperate with any security official or personnel who plays partisan politics or who has been suborned to intimidate you, that one is a bad egg. I want to use this opportunity to call on APC and their leaders not to undermine the security of the state. They should not see security officers as an extension of APC merely because APC is in control of the federal government. They should allow them to do their jobs. Leave the security agents out of their politics so they can provide security for all of us.

What would be your response to the allegations by your rival: that you accused him of master minding the killings of Bayelsans through his security outfit, that you are not very accurate with the amount of debts his administration left behind, that you took more loans than his administration and more?

On loans, I had opportunity to set up an enquiry as he did to expose everything he did as a governor but I did not do that and I am not planning to do that. I respect the office of the Governor. I accord him the respect that is rightly due him because it takes the grace of God for you to be a Governor out of millions. I take him up on issues. Bayelsans know the amount of money that he took. If you were to know the pressure I was under by some of the people around him as to how I should handle and deal with him, he will be shocked. But I do not think we should go that way. Bayelsans know the Governor that I am and the loan I took. But taking a loan is not a problem. He took a bond. The issue has to do with what was done with the money that was borrowed. For example, the airport that he could have done but did not do. When we were dualizing the Isaac Boro express road, some water pipes had to be removed and few of them were removed. But I have not heard any testimony that water was running continually before the dualisation.

He also said the road we are doing to Ekeremor is a political gimmick. Well, if to construct a road within this short period I am here and to the extent I have done it, something he could not do and his minister could not do, is a political gimmick then I want to have more political gimmicks like that because we believe in constructing roads. He does not have anything to campaign with.

Talking about why I am saying that his government did not do enough in security, that is what I was trying to say that when you are a leader you take responsibility. If you set up an organisation like Famutangbe and you put people in charge, as someone in ultimate authority, as chief executive officer you take responsibility for the decisions you take, for the

appointments you make and the organisations you set up you. So he cannot run away from that. I want to use this opportunity to ask that he apologise to Bayelsa for the atrocities he committed during his tenure. He shouldn't rationalise it. It is annoying when he says he did not know, because some of the victims were killed in Government House. I do not want to call names. People were arrested and taken into government house instead of police stations. I go campaigning in communities and the people tell me the names and number of people that were killed in their communities. This is a cause for concern. Let him apologise to Bayelsans. He could have built roads and flyovers but did not do it. He wants us to believe he is a better now that he has experienced the wilderness but the wilderness could make someone better or it could be the other way round. I see a lot of danger, venom, bitterness in him and unfortunately most of the people who are running around him because of federal appointment do not know the risk they are taking. Let him convince us that he is a brand new Timipre Slyva but for him to say all those killings do not matter? From the time he joined APC and ever since they conducted their violent primaries election, everybody in Bayelsa knows the crime rate has gone up. You do not need to be a security expert. The relationship between him and his politics are crime, criminality and violence. He knows my background, I have nothing to do with cultism all my life. I do not need any violence in this election.

In going round the communities, what are those things you noticed on ground that will influence your next tenure if you come on? Will there be a need to develop the communities towards the state capital?

My tour has opened my eyes more than ever before to the realities of rural life and particularly to the possibilities of our people. God bless our women, mothers and grandmothers! As we tour communities, we see them happy, showing heartfelt appreciation for one school or health center that was built or renovated. When you compare that to some people in the cities, the so called political elites that get billions of naira worth of contracts and the fact that there is a delay in payment makes them your enemies instantly and they want to bring you down; people you have given platforms to serve talking as if they never knew you and you are their worst enemy, you will be shocked.

I believe that with what I have seen in the course of my tour in the next tenure community development will have a higher priority because I have seen that one little investment in your community touches many many lives and changes their life and the way they perceive government. I will find a way of emphasizing community needs in the budget particularly issues of women empowerment. Look at the fish Agudama Ekpetiama women gave to me and the plantain, I could barely lift it. We had such from every community that we went to. God bless the wonderful women of Bayelsa for buying wrapper and bringing it to adorn me, telling me they do not want to bury their children, they do not want people to die prematurely in Bayelsa and that for the sake of peace they will vote for me. I go into communities and these women put their wrapper down on the road one after the other, over 6 to 7 hundred meters up to the podium. I found it difficult to step on those wrappers. The men, chiefs and people in our communities matter more, not this 1% in Yenagoa crying out for free money which the more you give the more they abuse you. The more appointment you give the more treacherous people become. Touring the communities, I am so much in love with our people, more than ever before. I have understood the challenges more than ever before. I have made a promise that when we win the next election in my usual way I will go round again to thank them. I am the first Governor to go on a thank you tour after winning election. And as a country man I will go back to my country people. That is what this job entails, not flying about in expensively-rented choppers.

What I know is that I am in this business to serve and for me even life itself is for service to humanity, our society and God. And like I say time and time again, he who serveth God well serveth man well but we know as humans we are not perfect. I am the first to admit that I am a bundle of imperfection but I am very passionate about Issues I believe in. I am a man of conviction that does not go with the wind, and I believe that I have a clear vision as to where to take this state.

I believe that in the next four years we will all have a better story to tell. I believe that life is about impact and that is why I am in a hurry to transform our society and the state. Any opportunity we have should be used to impact positively . I try to be fair to everybody, to do what is right and believe is good. I try to make the world a better place than I met it.



Remembering Bayelsa Of Yesterday: Timipre Sylva's Famou Tamgbe

— Nov 29, 2015 10:18 am | [Leave a comment](#)

By Thombra Dokubo

It is a known fact that true democracy will make possible the full enjoyment of Human Rights. However, the enabling ground and environment that will make this possible is an environment of peace, tranquility and security.

As we are also aware, the primary purpose of a government is the Security, welfare, wellbeing and happiness of the people or citizens residing in its territorial confines. Apart from the provision of the Nigerian Constitution which says the security of the citizen shall be primary responsibility of government, various international charters and treaties to which Nigerian is signatory imposed similar obligation on the Nigerian Government, including the federating States. As with every other obligation imposed by international charter or treaty, the Nigerian Government is not only bound to refrain from violating the Security and Safety of the citizens, it is equally bound to take positive, specific to address security issues once they emerge.

It will be an extreme academic exercise to go into any definition of the term “security”. It is convenient to borrow the descriptive perspective of the term “Security” by the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights. In its interpretation of right to Security, the African Commission describes the rights to Security to include “national and individual Security”.

According to the African Commission “national security examines how the state protects the PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF ITS CITIZENS from external threats, such as invasion, terrorism and violence. Individual security on the other hand can be looked at in two angles,

public and private security. By public security, the law examines how the State protects the physical integrity of its citizens from abuse by other citizens. One way to comply with these positive obligations in the area of citizens' security and safety would be for the government to monitor, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of its law enforcement and security agencies. In addition, the government must truly make security and safety of those who live in the society, a public policy priority by tackling the root cause of violence and crime, which is extreme poverty and lack of opportunities and freedom for people to seek personal development and prosperity. The government should also ensure that law enforcement and security agencies have the personnel and infrastructure to provide quality services without discrimination or distinction. In implementing these steps, the government must also uphold the rule of law and respect for human rights in its law enforcement response to violence and crime in the Society. Preventing and combating violence and crime must not put security before human rights, which can lead to erosion of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the citizens.

While we reckon that security is the first law of nature and no administration will do anything to compromise the security of her citizens. However, there are times politicians because of overzealousness and the tendency to protect their personal estates, are tempted to use official security for their personal advantage. This is exactly what happened to the existence of "Operation Famou-Tangbei", an outfit created under the administration of Chief Timipre Sylva, while in the saddle as the Governor of Bayelsa State. He introduced the outfit as an approach by his administration to tackle the challenges of militancy, which was at its peak at that time. We must also remember that this was the same period that the Federal Government initiated the Amnesty Programme in the Niger Delta Region.

At that moment of history in Bayelsa State, so many stories surrounding the operations of Operation Famou Tangbe, many too unpleasant to reiterate we in the knowledge of the public particularly, the people of Bayelsa State. It was discovered that while the outfit was established to reduce crime; it has rather exacerbated criminal activities.

As time went on in the State, Operation Famou-Tangbe became an instrument of political repression and intimidation by the government of Timipre Sylva. The administration used the outfit to intimidate, maim and harass members of opposition parties in Bayelsa State. Rather than maintain peace and security, Famou Tangbe became an instrument of intimidation like the Gestapo under Nazi Germany.

Also under the watchful eyes of the Timipre Sylva administration, there were several reported cases where people paid sums of money to operatives of the outfit to beat people up for trivial matters such as boy friend – girlfriend relationship etc. in fact, a time came that Famou Tangbe began to play the role of debt collectors and settlement of matrimonial issues. These are civil and domestic issues that have no relationship with security. The outfit easily became a handy tool in the hands of political office holders in Bayelsa State to seize land from the less-privileged and those who are not politically connected.

Another sad reminder of the Sylva administration and his Famou Tangbe outfit was how the operation became colossal drain pipe on the resources of Bayelsa State. It is on record that the sum of N150 million was spent monthly to maintain the outfit. Till date, Bayelsans are still demanding accountability from Chief Timi Sylva on expenditures such as this and others under whose guise the administration looted Bayelsa State dry.

For every reason that one may have to remember the Sylva administration and its operation Famou Tamgbe outfit, what flashes back is that of an outfit which operators, saw themselves as being above the regular Nigerian Police Force. The head of the squad executed directives only from Government House and other corrupt government officers. If the operations of the squad are legal and within the ambit of law, why did the Commander refuse to take directives from the State Police Command?

Bayelsans need to be reminded of the death of the Plant Manager at Gilly-Helena Hotel Late Mr. Karina Frank-Oputu – who in September 2011, was beaten to death by Famou Tamgbe operatives in Yenagoa. This is just one of several cases of unreported extra-judicial killings. Such cases are numerous in Bayelsa State and most of the victims could not complain for fear of being maimed or killed by the operatives, without any hope of rederess from the government under the Timipre Sylva administration.

Today, Bayelsans are relieved of the sad experiences of those years and are never willing to have a governor that will return the state to those dark days. The people have continued to compare the administration of Governor Henry Seriake Dickson to that of Timipre Sylva, and the difference, they say, is clear. The security arrangement currently in place is better, even though there may be room for improvement. Apart from direct observations; from the pulse of Bayelsans, information about the exploits of Operation Doo Akpo is felt; especially in the areas of swift response to distress calls and human rights related issues.

And, although the current security outfit is a great improvement when compared to Operation Famou Tamgbe; that wicked, lawless and violent security outfit put in place by the Timipre Sylva's administration.

The Seriake Dickson's administration has ensured that the Rule of Law is not only upheld, the fundamental rights of citizens are also protected.

Today in Bayelsa, whosoever is arrested is handed over to the regular police stations after documentations for proper investigation of alleged offences and they are prosecuted in courts of competent jurisdiction.

During the reign of Operation Famou Tamgbe, night life in Yenagoa was restricted and Bayelsans moved about with fear at all times of the day. Today, members of the public are enjoying night life in Yenagoa now without the usual molestation/harassment, arrest and detention associated with Operation Famou Tamgbe.

It is therefore imperative that as we approach the December 5, 2015 governorship election, we take a critical look into our past as a people of Bayelsa state with a view to determining the future of our people which will greatly be affected by the choices we make as to who governs us in the next four years.

The Restoration is the answer.

God bless Bayelsa,

God bless Nigeria

#BayelsaVotes

Insecurity Swept Timipre Sylva Out Of Office....

By Idumange John

I was in my Port Harcourt office when I heard a call. It was a distress call, a call of a man in agony and pains from one elder Ockiya. Ockiya is a big, highly respected family in Nembe. The man narrated how his 22 year old son who just gained admission to read Petrochemical Engineering in UNIPORT was arrested, tortured, tied up-side-down and shot. The caller was at Boro Park, Port Harcourt.

Without wasting time, my PA and I went to see him and he handed over the picture of the deceased boy to us. They were two pictures: one –when he was alive and the second when he was lying cold in FMC morgue. After receiving the pictures, I wrote a letter to the then Commissioner of Police about a proposed one million-man march. I had contacted other activists to investigate other extra-judicial murders and published the letter in INDEPENDENT MONITOR AND THE BEACON too. Reports indicated that Operation Famou Tangbei had killed more than 78 youths, the most prominent were one ThankGod Michael, 26 from Opoolo and Karina Frank-Oputu at Imbgi Road. The man was a plant operator at Gilly Helena Hotel and was accused of stealing N1, 000.00. Famou Tangbei was called in and at once he was beaten to death. All these extra-judicial murders took place in September, 2011. Some of these extra-judicial murders were documented and at least six persons are in court with

ex-Governor Timipre Sylva. Why civil society chased Governor Sylva out of office was not because he was stealing but because he was killing innocent youths and promoting cultism and criminality in the State. Insecurity actually swept Ex-Governor Timipre Sylva out of office.

ONE of the lowest points of the immediate past administration is the gross misuse of the security outfit nicknamed Operation Famou-Tangbe OFT. Not only was OFT used as an instrument of political repression and intimidation; it was used as a killer machine like the Gestapo under the Third Reich. OFT members acted as debt collectors, arbiters in matrimonial issues, settlers of land disputes and other civil and domestic issues that have no bearing on security, etc. Officially, it is estimated that the sum of N150 Million was spent monthly to maintain the Operation Famou Tangbei, the fact that OFT never took directives from the Police Command show that its operations are sinister and illegal. The Plant Manager at Gilly-Helena Hotel Late Mr. Karina Frank-Oputu - was beaten to death by OFT operatives, Freddie Philip Ockiya, 22 was arrested and shot by the same OFT and another ThankGod Michael, 26, was abbreviated by OFT operatives. All these murders occurred

in September, 2011. At the last count, Civil Society recorded 78 deaths. It was like the Nazi holocaust in that sleepy town-Auschwitz in Poland. The spate of killing was uncontrollable because it was internally engineered. The helmsman never cared because like Hitler, he relished taking a cocktail of banned substances.

The international Community, especially the Amnesty International was at the point of blacklisting Nigeria before the disbandment of the outfit. Closely allied to the aforementioned

is the fact that Timipre Sylva was friendly and even patronized the militants. The patronage was such that the former Governor was convinced that the militants had the power to rig him into office. It was at this point that militants were comfortably accommodated in Government House, given choice cars, and engaged in a spending spree. They became Lords of the land. Simultaneously, TS oiled his media machine and asked the media people to go to work. Every day, at least one letter was published in the national dailies, insulting the President on a daily basis. Chief Perekeme Richard Kpodoh is one of such persons whose name was used to sign such letters after they had been written by Sylva's Chief Press Secretary Doufie Ola. So under Timipre Sylva cultism and criminality were

deeply entrenched such that broad day light killings were almost a weekly occurrence. To this evil was added the use of drugs by the youths. The youths were so free with hard drugs that they became small emperors, committing havoc and obeying no rules because their sponsors were in government. Bayelsa became a gangster paradise.

Self-preservation is the first law of nature and government owes the people a duty to preserve lives and property, but when self-preservation is breached and such breaches are aided by government, then society has become Hobbesian where life is brutish and short. Bayelsans might have forgotten the reign of terror, extra-judicial killings and the gangland wars sponsored by the bloodiest regime of terror Bayelsans have ever seen. It was a Nazi regime, and totalitarianism of the fascist style that rode roughshod at that time. Those who killed might have forgotten but the families of the deceased can vividly remember that their source of hope was cut short by a regime of terror supervised by their son- bloody, a primitive generalissimo that became their nemesis.

Under Governor Timipre Sylva, Bayelsa State regressed to the Hobbesian State, where life was brutish, short and unpleasant. Those dark chapters are being re-written by Governor Seriake Dickson to entrench peace, security and civility. This is the strongest achievement of the Restoration Administration.

I thereby throw open a debate with Ex-Governor Timipre Sylva to defend the over 100 extra-judicial killings during his reign of terror. Fix a date, time and venue and I will meet you there. The so called APC members are invited to defend killing of Bayelsa youths and I will treat them to a cocktail of very gory incidents of another "Hilter" in a Third Reich. Timipre Sylva the purported Leader of APC cannot win even his polling unit because of these atrocities.

Read more at: <http://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/187321/insecurity-swept-timipre-sylva-out-of-office.html>

4.2 Senator Heineken Lokpobiri

- 'Hitler of Ekeremor Politics'

Current Status: Minister of State of Agriculture

State of Origin: Bayelsa State

Native: Ekeremor Town in Ekeremor LGA

Age: 49 Years - Born on March 3, 1967.

Nickname: The self-styled 'Hitler of Ekeremor Politics'

Heineken Lokpobiri, a lawyer by training was elected as a member of the State House of Assembly in June 1999 and subsequently became its first speaker but was later impeached in May 2001 for gross financial misconduct. Mr. Lokpobiri also served as a Senator from Bayelsa West Senatorial District from 2007 to 2015.

ALLEGATIONS

1. On April 9, 2011, he was declared wanted by Professor Attahiru Jega, the then Chairman of INEC for electoral malpractices, specifically commandeering corps members and forcefully moving sensitive election materials to his house.
2. As Speaker of the Bayelsa House of Assembly, he withheld the allowances of colleagues in the Bayelsa State of Assembly after passing the self-accounting bill into law.
3. Heineken Lokpobiri came with cult boys from Port Harcourt to disrupt proceedings at the Bayelsa House of Assembly when he noticed that he was about to be impeached. So many Assembly men sustained various degrees of injuries.
4. He was linked with the dynamite bombing of the administrative wing of the State House of Assembly Complex, following his impeachment as speaker under questionable circumstances in May 2001.
5. Recruitment of a horde of miscreants to sack and destroy documents in the Court of Appeal that handled election petitions instituted against him by Perembowei Ebebi in 2011.

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6. Alleged to have plotted the attack on Governor's Lodge, Sagbama in Sagbama Local Government Area.
7. Hiring of inebriated thugs to disrupt the December 2014 PDP's National Assembly Primaries in Sagbama, Bayelsa State.
8. Recruitment of thugs and contracting of 50 speedboats to unleash acts of violence on the Ekeremor Community during the Bayelsa State Governorship Election of Saturday, December 5, 2015.
9. Alleged acts of brazen lawlessness on December 30/31 2015 when he arrived Ekeremor Community with a large number of uniformed and ununiformed security personnel, including soldiers, under the guise of ushering in the New Year, went about destroying the properties/posters of rival party candidates.
10. Intimidation of the locals/community youth leaders via phone calls, terrorizing and oppression of the Ekeremor people he is supposed to protect, during the January 9, 2016, governorship re-run election in the nine units of the community.

WHAT HIS PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HIM

In the build-up to his nomination for ministerial appointment by President Muhammadu Buhari, a socio-cultural organization, Ijaw Solidarity Union (ISU), vehemently criticized the nomination to appoint him minister representing Bayelsa State, describing him as "a gangster."

In a statement issued by the General Secretary of the organization, Hon. Friday Adolphus Yeri, ISU condemned Lokpobiri's nomination, saying it was an embarrassment to have such a man as minister representing the state on account of what it described as Lokpobiri's record of "destruction, violence and electoral hooliganism".

Branding it the worst appointment in the history of the state, the statement further stressed that the former senator's claim to fame and fortune was through intimidation and blackmail.

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Aside the ISU, several other groups in the oil-rich State of Bayelsa joined their voices to oppose his nomination as a minister representing the state. In a plea to the National Assembly (NASS), one such group, the Bayelsa Solidarity Forum, urged NASS to reject Mr. Lokpobiri, adding that his political antecedents were questionable “both as a former Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Speaker of the Bayelsa State House of Assembly.”

In a petition that cataloged his alleged offenses against Nigerians and the people of Bayelsa State; and signed by its secretary, Godspower Belekumo-Davidson, the Forum asked the “leadership of the National Assembly to have a re-think over the nomination and the screening of Lokpobiri”.

The petition accused the nominee of being behind the bombing of the administrative wing of the State House of Assembly complex, adding that he was “on self-imposed exile in Port Harcourt, Rivers State for many years. This was done in a bid to escape police arrest”.

The petitioners stated that Mr. Lokpobiri, who in 2011 ran for the Senate on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), lost to the Labor Party (LP) candidate, Hon. Perembowei Ebebi. The then chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Attahiru Jega, on national television called for the arrest and prosecution of Senator Lokpobiri who was caught with a ballot box during the election.

‘When Ebebi appealed to the court, a horde of miscreants sacked the court and destroyed court documents. Matters worsened and in a turn-around of events, whereas the law court wanted Lokpobiri prosecuted, he somehow managed to wriggle himself out of trouble and was declared the eventual winner,’ the petition added.

The petitioners also alleged that the ministerial nominee hired inebriated thugs to disrupt the PDP’s National Assembly Primaries in Sagbama, Bayelsa State on December 7, 2014. And exactly one year later, during the state’s governorship election held on Saturday, December 5, 2015, the self-styled ‘Hitler of Ekeremor Politics’ lived true to the sobriquet he is so proud of, when according to security reports, Mr. Lokpobiri is alleged to have recruited some thugs and contracted 50 speedboats to unleash violence. . For him politics is war by some other means and all is fair in war.”

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HIS DEFENSE

In his defense and in a story titled 'Buhari's Ministerial Nominee Denies DSS Arrest' and published in The Punch Newspaper of October 15, 2015, Lokpobiri denied that he was ever arrested in 2011 for alleged electoral fraud by the Department of State Services (DSS).

He also dismissed the report's allegation that he was impeached by the Bayelsa State House Assembly in 2001; describing the "impeachment" as a charade fabricated by the report, and that the case was declared null and void by the courts.

In a statement personally signed by him, Mr. Lokpobiri lamented the "warping" of public knowledge to score "imaginary political points". "At first, my reaction to the report, contained in the Wednesday Edition of *The Punch*, page 21, was to ignore it as in my view it is preposterous, warped and lacking in credibility.

However, in the interest of clarity I have decided to reveal the report as nothing more than the product of ill-motivated spinners whose intentions are known to them alone.

I am particularly amazed by the pedestrian report which insinuated that I was arrested in 2011 for an alleged electoral fraud, and also claimed that in 2001 a lawful impeachment of myself as Speaker of the Bayelsa State House of Assembly took place.

'In the interest of clarity, the charade referred to as my 2001 impeachment by the promoters of the report, which was carried out illegally by 10 out of a 24 member legislature, has since been declared null, void and illegal by a competent court of jurisdiction via Suit No YHC /88/2006 (Heineken Lokpobiri vs Bayelsa State House of Assembly) .

At the end of the day, Senator Heineken Lokpobiri against the wishes of his people of Bayelsa State was cleared at the screening exercise conducted by the upper legislative chamber (The Senate) of Nigeria's National Assembly; and subsequently appointed a Minister of State for Agriculture.

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VIOLENCE DURING DECEMBER 2016 BAYELSA POLLS

However, this victory was not to last for long as Heineken Lokpobiri was on the spot again in December 2015 when he was linked to alleged acts of violence in Bayelsa State politics.

With the state governorship re-run election in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area, and 101 units in six local government areas just days away, community leaders in Ekeremor, the minister's home-base expressed serious concern over their safety as they complained of not being on the same political page with their son.

They cried out, pointing out that their kinsman, the minister (Lokpobiri) was making life unbearable for them. Consequently, they appealed to President Muhammadu Buhari, to call Lokpobiri to order in the interest of peace and security in the riverine community.

Aside being a minister under President Buhari, Lokpobiri is a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), the governing party in Nigeria, and also doubled as the Director-General of the Timipre Sylva Campaign Organization for the governorship of the state.

And at that moment, the APC was not sailing well on the political waters of Bayelsa.

In a letter to President Buhari, dated January 3, and jointly signed by the Chairman of the Community Development Committee, Preye Okoyen and Secretary, James Ombegh, the people pleaded with Buhari to check the excesses of his cabinet minister and call him to order, in a frantic bid to ensure peace and security in the boiling community before, during and after the January 9, 2016 re-run election in the nine units of the community.

The people of Ekeremor while stating their preparedness to vote for the party of their choice, added that acts of violence and intimidation were totally condemnable and called on the leaders of the various political parties and their followers to go about their activities in the most peaceful and lawful manner to enable the people exercise their civic responsibilities without molestation.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation

Alleged acts of brazen lawlessness by Lokpobiri, who on December 30 2015 arrived the community with a large number of uniformed and ununiformed security personnel, including soldiers, who on the night of December 31 2015, under the guise of ushering in the New Year, went about destroying the posters of rival party candidates and offices, were brought to the attention of President Buhari.

The community also quoted Lokpobiri, as placing a phone call to a popular youth leader in the community, known as “Back to Life” that, he was sending someone to kill him, boasting that, unlike the December 5 exercise, he was better prepared for that weekend’s re-run and would do anything, including the application of force to ensure that, the APC won all the 9 units of Ekeremor Town.

The urge to call for the urgent intervention of President Buhari by the leadership of the Ekeremor community was ignited by signs of grave danger that was looming and the palpable high tension that was already in the air.

They foresaw a breakdown of law and order if nothing concrete was done by the authorities, because majority of the people of the community could not stomach the realization that they had produced a Minister who terrorizes and oppresses his own people when is supposed to protect them.

ATTACHMENTS:

The following additional documentation in respect of the above-detailed report is attached on the pages stated hereafter:

- **Photograph of Senator Heineken Lokpobiri**
- **Bayelsa violence: Dickson warns Lokpobiri**
- **Ministerial Slot: Lokpobiri declared wanted by INEC - Group to NASS**
- **Nigeria: Buhari’s Minister Linked with Violence in Bayelsa Polls**
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- **Bayelsa Poll: Danger Posed by Heineken Lokpobiri, By Kingsmen in a Letter to Kokpobiri**

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Heineken Lokpobiri

Bayelsa violence: Dickson warns Lokpobiri

By [Gabriel Akinadewo](#) -

March 30, 2015



Governor Henry Seriake Dickson of Bayelsa State has frowned at the deploying of force by Senator Heineken Lokpobiri to secure the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) ticket for Bayelsa–West Senatorial District, “with misleading information and outright forgery of party documents”.

The governor, who was speaking when he visited the scene of a clash between rival supporters of the winner of the party’s primaries, Evangelist Foster Ogola, and incumbent Senator, Heineken Lokpobiri, who is challenging Ogola’s candidacy in court, warned that the government will deal decisively with anybody or group of persons, no matter how highly placed, that takes the law into their hands.

Reports have it that Ogola’s supporters were irked when the Judge, who had earlier been petitioned over his lopsided handling of the matter, went ahead to fix hearing and judgement for today (Monday) without proper notification to both parties, even as the matter has been moved away from his court.

Dickson, who visited the scene of the clash in the company of some security chiefs, condemned Lokpobiri’s action for manipulating the judicial process for judgement to be passed in his favour, without the knowledge of the other party in the matter.

He advised the judiciary not to allow itself to be used by desperate politicians to perpetrate injustice, capable of causing a breach of the peace, as was experienced between the rival supporters.

It will be recalled that Lokpobiri allegedly employed the services of thugs to disrupt the National Assembly primaries of the PDP held in Sagbama December, 2014 but for the presence of security agencies, who acted timely to stop them.

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Ministerial slot: Lokpobiri was declared wanted by INEC - Group to NASS

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The nomination of Senator Heineken Lokpobiri [image above] as ministerial nominee by the All Progressives Congress (APC) to represent Bayelsa State has continued to generate more tension among the intelligentsia in the State.

The Bayelsa Solidarity Forum has therefore called on the National Assembly to replace him because of his questionable political antecedents "both as a former Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Speaker of the Bayelsa state House of Assembly.

"It is on this premise, that we are calling on the leadership of the National Assembly to have a re-think over the nomination and the screening of Lokpobiri. If truly the APC stands for what it has been professing, the name Lokpobiri shouldn't have come up in the first instance, let alone sending it to the Senate for ratification", the BSF said in a petition by its Secretary, Godspower Belekumo-Davidson, to the National Assembly.

The group catalogued the sins of Lokpobiri against Nigerians and the people of Bayelsa State both while in the State House of Assembly and as Senator of the Federal Republic.

Belekumo-Davidson said, "For record purposes, Heineken Lokpobiri was elected as a member of the State House of Assembly in 1999 and subsequently became its first speaker but was later impeached in 2002 for gross financial misconduct.

"Also, he spearheaded the bombing of the administrative wing of the State House of Assembly complex. He was on self-imposed exile in Port Harcourt, Rivers state for many years. This was done in a bid to escape police arrest.

"In 2011, Heineken Lokpobiri contested on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) but he lost to the Labour Party (LP) candidate, Rt. Hon. Perembowei Ebebi, who was the clear winner of the election.

The then chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Attahiru Jega, had on national television called for the arrest and prosecution of Senator Lokpobiri who was caught with a ballot box during that National Assembly election that was conducted by INEC on April 9, 2011.

"Jega said, 'a Senator is to be prosecuted by INEC for electoral malpractices. The senator commandeered corps members and election materials to his house. We are discussing with security agencies about having him apprehended and prosecuted.'

"When Ebebi appealed to the court, a horde of miscreants sacked the court and destroyed court documents. Matters became worsened. In some amazing abracadabra, whereas the law court wanted Lokpobiri prosecuted, he somehow managed to wriggle himself out of trouble and was declared the eventual winner.

"During the December 7, 2014 primaries, drug-inebriated thugs tried to disrupt the national assembly primaries of the PDP in Sagbama but were repulsed through the timely intervention of law enforcement agents.

"This has since been followed by reprehensible attempts to suborn the courts to subvert the course of justice and to obtain judgement through the back door. The self-styled "Hitler of Ekeremor politics" is living true to the sobriquet he is so proud of. For him politics is war by some other means and all is fair in war.

"The security report at our disposal revealed that Lokpobiri has recruited some thugs from Ekeremor end of the State to unleash violence during the governorship election slated for Saturday, December 5, 2015. To carry out the dastardly act, over 50 speed boats have been bought.

"The list of his nefarious acts is endless. That is why we are surprise that people like Lokpobiri could make the list of our respected President, General Muhammadu Buhari.

As a body, the issue that we are raising is neither personal nor political; it is in the interest of the entire Ijaw nation. While other states are well represented, we will not fold our hands by allowing Lokpobiri to represent our interest.

"The National Assembly should ask him, as a senator representing Bayelsa West senatorial district, what impact as he made. We are saying no to the candidacy of Lokpobiri. We have credible people, even in APC that can represent our interest."

Nigeria: Buhari's Minister Linked With Violence In Bayelsa Polls

By [NewsRescue](#) - January 5, 2016



*By Akanimo Sampson,
Port Harcourt, Nigeria*

MINISTER of State for Agriculture, Heineken Lokpobiri, is on the spot again for alleged acts of violence in Bayelsa State politics. As a Speaker of the state House of Assembly, the minister was linked with the bombing of the Assembly following his removal as speaker under questionable circumstances.

With the state governorship re-run election in Southern Ijaw Local Dovernment Area, and 101 units in six local government areas just days ahead, community leaders in Ekeremor, the minister's hoe-base are expressing serious concern over their safety as they are not on the same political page with their son.

They have therefore cried out, pointing out that their kinsman and the minister, Lokpobiri, is making life unbearable for them. Consequently, they are calling on President Muhammadu Buhari, to call Lokpobiri to order in the interest of peace and security in the riverine community.

The minister is a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), the governing party in Nigeria, and also the Director-General of the Timipre Sylva Campaign Organisation for the governorship of the state. At the moment, APC does not appear to be sailing well on the waters of Bayelsa.

In a letter to President Buhari, dated January 3, and jointly signed by the Chairman of the Community Development Committee, Preye Okoyen and Secretary, James Ombeh, the people appealed pleaded with Buhari to check the excesses of his cabinet minister and call

him to order, in a frantic bid ensure peace and security in the boiling community before, during and after this coming January 9 re-run election in the nine units of the community.

Ekeremor people have stated their preparedness to vote to the party of their choice, adding that acts of violence and intimidation were totally condemnable and called on the leaders of the various political parties and their followers to go about their activities in the most peaceful and lawful manner to enable the people exercise their civic responsibilities without molestation.

According to them, "we are constrained to appeal to Your Excellency to call on the Minister of State to order in the interest of peace, security and the exercise of our franchise. The people of Ekeremor community want to vote and do not want any violence and intimidation. Let every party leader and their followers go about lobbying peacefully and in a lawful manner so that the people can freely exercise their franchise."

They are calling the attention of President Buhari to the alleged acts of brazen lawlessness by Lokpobiri, who on December 30 2015 arrived the community with a large number of uniformed and ununiformed security personnel, including soldiers, who on the night of December 31 2015, under the guise of ushering in the New Year, went about destroying the posters of rival party candidates and offices.

In the letter, the community also quoted Lokpobiri, as placing a phone call to a popular youth leader in the community, known as "Back to Life" that, he was sending someone to kill him, boasting that, unlike the December 5 exercise, he was better prepared for the this weekend's re-run and would do anything, including the application of force to ensure that, the APC wins all the 9 units of Ekeremor Town.

While calling for the urgent intervention of President Buhari, the leadership of the Ekeremor community notes that, already there were signs of grave danger, stressing that, the tension in the community was palpably high.

They noted with regret that, there could be breakdown of law and order, if nothing concrete is done, lamenting that, majority of the members of the community are troubled by the mere realization that, the minister, who is their own son, is the very person terrorizing and oppressing his own people, instead of protecting them.

"Mr. President, these are signs of grave danger that is looming in the community towards January 9 and the tension in the community is palpably high. We foresee breakdown of law and order if nothing concrete is done by the authorities, because majority of the people of the community cannot stomach the realisation that we produced a Minister who has come to terrorise and oppress his own people whom he is supposed to protect", the letter said.

Read more: <http://newsrescue.com/nigeria-buharis-minister-linked-with-violence-in-bayelsa-polls/#axzz4DcxXXGGj>



Bayelsa Poll: Danger Posed by Heineken Lokpobiri, By Kingsmen in a Letter to Buhari - January 7, 2016

About two days to the Bayelsa state governorship re-run election in Southern Ijaw and 101 units in 6 LGAs of Bayelsa State, chiefs and people of Ekeremor community have expressed serious concern over the open threats of violence to lives and property by their kinsman and the Minister of State for Agriculture, Senator Heineken Lokpobiri.

They have therefore called on President Muhammadu Buhari to immediately call Lokpobiri to order in the interest of the peace and security of the state.

In the letter dated January 3, 2016 and signed by the chairman, Community Development Committee, Preye Okoyen and Secretary, James Ombih, the people appealed to President Buhari to check the excesses of Senator Lokpobiri and call him to order, so that there will be peace and security before, during and after the January 9 re-run election in nine electoral units of the community.

The Ekeremor people restated their preparedness to vote, adding that acts of violence and intimidation were totally condemnable and called on the leaders of the various political parties and their followers to go about their activities in a peaceful and lawful manner to enable the people exercise their civic responsibilities without molestation.

The letter reads: “We are constrained to appeal to Your Excellency to call the Minister of State to order in the interest of peace, security and the exercise of our franchise. The people of Ekeremor community want to vote and do not want any violence and intimidation. Let every party leader and their followers go about lobbying peacefully and in a lawful manner so that the people can freely exercise their franchise.”

The organisation called the attention of President Buhari to brazen acts of lawlessness by Lokpobiri, who on December 30 2015 arrived the community with a large number of uniformed and plain clothed security personnel, including soldiers, who on the night of December 31 2015, under the guise of ushering in the New Year, went about destroying the posters of rival party candidates and offices.

A part of the letter to the President also quoted Senator Lokpobiri, as phoning a popular youth leader in the community, simply known as “Back to Life” that, he was sending someone to kill him, boasting that, unlike the December 5 exercise, he was better prepared for the this weekend’s re-run and would do anything, including the application of force to ensure that, the APC wins all the 9 units of Ekeremor Town.

Calling for the urgent intervention of President Buhari, the leadership of the Ekeremor community notes that, already there were signs of grave danger, stressing that the tension in the community was palpably high.

The group raised the alarm that there could be breakdown of law and order, if nothing concrete is done, lamenting that majority of the members of the community are particularly troubled by the realization that, the minister, who is their own son, is the very person terrorizing and oppressing his own people, instead of protecting them.

“Mr. President, these are signs of grave danger that is looming in the community towards January 9 and the tension in the community is palpably high. We foresee breakdown of law and order if nothing concrete is done by the authorities, because majority of the people of the community cannot reconcile the fact that we produced a Minister who has come to terrorise and oppress his own people who he is supposed to protect”, the group added.

4.3 - HON. ISRAEL SUNNY GOLI

- The Gory Story of Adi

Hon. Israel Sunny Goli popularly called 'Adi' is the lawmaker representing Brass Constituency 2 in the Bayelsa State House of Assembly, where he also once doubled as the Minority Leader and House Committee Chairman on Niger Delta Development Commission.

During the tenure of Chief Timipre Sylva as Governor of the oil-rich Bayelsa State, Goli was a Special Adviser on Youth Empowerment.

ALLEGATIONS

1. The 2007 killing of five (5) out of seven (7) of his opponents in broad day light and the cover-up by the Sylva administration.
2. Hon. Israel Sunny Goli has been the prime suspect on the list of those who informed Sylva's killer outfit Operation Famou Tangbei to arrest and extra-judicially murder ThankGod Michael at Opolo. The Civil Liberties Organization confirmed that he was killed by Famou Tangbei and the killing was traced to Hon. Israel Sunny Goli.
3. The gruesome murder of one Hon. Delight Igali could be traceable to Timipre Sylva and Sunny Goli. During the PDP House of Assembly elections in 2010, the Late Delight Igali had an argument with Ex-Governor Timipre Sylva as to who should be the lawmaker.

After the elections, Hon. Israel Sunny Goli (Adi) was asked to set him up and got him shot. Then his killers created a scene as if Hon. Delight Igali died in an accident. The matter was reported to the law enforcement authorities, but it was not properly investigated.

The police should open an investigation on the matter to know how the Hon. Member of the Assembly was killed.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation

4. It is on record that Hon. Israel Sunny Goli procured fast-moving speedboats and recruited some militant youths from other parts of the country to engage in sea-piracy on the Brass-Yenagoa Waterways. He did this with a view to undermining the security architecture of the Restoration Administration. Inhabitants of Twon-Brass have reported severally to law enforcement agencies but he has not yet been brought to book.

5. ALLEGE THREAT TO LIFE BY TIMI FRANK, APC'S NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY

Ahead of the December 2015 Governorship Elections in Bayelsa State, the crack in the camp of the All Progressives Congress in Bayelsa State deepened as a party chieftain, Mr Timi Frank, alleged threat to his life.

Frank, who doubles as the Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the APC, pointed accusing fingers at Hon. Israel Sunny Goli.

Frank alleged that Goli was threatening his life due to his decision to stay away from the campaign organisation of Timipre Sylva which was constituted by the chairman of the party, Chief John Odigie Oyegun.

At a press conference in Abuja, Frank explained that his decision to be excluded from the campaign was because the Bayelsa APC was towing the wrong path by fielding Timipre Sylva as candidate.

Since then, however, Frank alleged that several phone calls had been made to his line threatening his life. He named Goli as the architect of the calls as the lawmaker had called his lines, rained abuses on him, accused him of trying to sabotage Sylva's ambition, as well as insulting the APC guber candidate, threatened that he (Frank) would have himself to blame if he ever came to Bayelsa State, as he would meet his waterloo, and finally boasted of knowing Frank's Abuja residence which would effortlessly be traced.

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6. THE 2014 APC PRIMARIES

Chief Timipre Sylva and his aides have had a history of employing violence in their endeavours. In the build up to the primaries, Chief Sylva allegedly instructed Hon. Goli to organize touts from Ahoada and the Omoku areas of Rivers State with the sole aim of disrupting the programme in the event the proceedings did not favour him (Sylva).

Governor Adams Oshiomhole of Edo State was penciled down to supervise the primay election. During the exercise, Sylva's supporters menacingly surrounded the Electoral Committee Chairperson, Governor Oshiomhole, placing his life in danger before he was rescued by Nigerian troops.

In the words of Oshiomhole, 'The primary was a disaster as I was held hostage and I escaped narrowly'.

7. DECEMBER 5, 2015 BAYELSA GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION

It was Hon. Israel Sunny Goli who used his office to intimidate the Nigerian Agip Oil Company and illegally extorted N200million from the company to prosecute an agenda of violence during the Dec. 5th, 2015 election. It was he who invaded AGIP's Terminal in Brass and used the base to rig elections in favour of APC. An official letter was written to AGIP on this issue. This matter demands an in-depth investigation to serve as deterrent to others.

ATTACHMENTS:

The following additional documentation in respect of the above-detailed report is attached on the pages stated thereafter:

- **Photographs of Israel Sunny Goli**
- **Bayelsa APC governorship primary ends in deadlock**
- **Bayelsa APC Primary: Timipre Sylva needs help – Adams Oshiomhole**
- **Sylva's Campaign Aide Israel Sunny-Goli Threatens To Kill APC Deputy Spokesman, Timi Frank**
- **Bayelsa: My Life Under Threat, APC Deputy National Publicity Secretary, Alleges**

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Israel Sunny Goli

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation

Bayelsa APC governorship primary ends in deadlock

Posted By: [Mike Odiegwu, Yenagoa](#) on: September 22, 2015



The governorship primary election of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Bayelsa State, ended in deadlock on Tuesday.

The exercise was marred by violence, thuggery, intimidation of some aspirants and meddlesomeness by some state party officials.

The Chairman of the Electoral Committee and Governor of Edo State, Mr. Adams Oshiomhole, was held hostage and was later smuggled out of the venue by operatives of the Department of State Security (DSS) and soldiers.

It was gathered that the governor escaped the angry youths under the pretence that he was going to have his meal.

Trouble started in the morning before 8am, when thugs, suspected cultists and ex-militants invaded the entrance of Samson Siasia Sports Complex, Yenagoa, the venue of the exercise. The thugs hurled stones at delegates who lined up to be screened for the exercise creating chaos and panic in the area.

The unruly crowd attacked the delegates and sent them running for their lives. Most of the delegates especially persons said to be loyal to the former Managing Director, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Chief Timi Alaibe, could not return to the venue.

The local government chairmen of the party in Sagbama, Ekeremor and Yenagoa, were reportedly attacked and wounded by the thugs.

Over 1300 policemen led by the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) were deployed in the venue to maintain the peace.

Most of the delegates were shut out of the exercise and were not allowed access to the venue of the primary.

The state Chairman of the party, Chief Tiwe Oruminighe, and some of his executive members were visibly angry at Alaibe and freely attacked him verbally.

Alaibe maintained his cool as he uttered no word.

When the accreditation of the delegates started, most persons who presented themselves for the exercise were said to be fake delegates in possession of cloned voter cards.

The Master of the Ceremony (MC) announced that some persons with cloned cards had been arrested and handed over to the police.

Bayelsa APC Primary: Timpre Sylva needs help — Adams Oshiomhole
[September 28, 2015 Festus Owete](#)



Edo State Governor, Adams Oshiomhole, who chaired the seven-member committee that supervised the controversial governorship primary of the All Progressives Congress in Bayelsa State, has said he harbours no personal grouse against one of the candidates, Timipre Sylva.

Mr Oshiomhole said he believed Mr. Sylva is under tension, and needs to be helped.

The governor also restated that dangerous weapons were freely used by some of the participants during the exercise last week.
Mr. Oshiomhole spoke on Monday after submitting the report of the committee to the National Working Committee of the party in Abuja.

He had last week dismissed the election, saying the exercise was marred by violence hence it was suspended by his committee.

However, Mr. Sylva, a former governor of Bayelsa State, debunked Mr. Oshiomhole's, describing him as a "liar."

Amid the controversy, the National chairman of the APC, John Odigie-Oyegun, announced the cancellation of the election.

He said the exercise would be rescheduled, a position Mr. Sylva contested.

The former Bayelsa State governor, in response to Mr. Odigie-Oyegun's action, said the chairman had no power to take unilateral decision to nullify the exercise.

Mr. Oshiomhole told journalists on Monday that he had an excellent relationship with Mr. Sylva and that he would not resort to fighting the former governor.

He said if the former governor was under tension the party would help him.

"You know, Sylva is my brother and I can show you my phone. I'm not just calling him my brother and I have sent him a text saying my brother before the election and he will remain my brother," Mr. Oshiomhole said.

"So, if there is an argument or somebody is under tension what you need is our help. I know what it takes contesting an election and I have passed through all of that and happily I'm doing my second term.

"So, I will not create burden for anyone except that because of the tradition I'm coming from democracy has only one meaning "one man one vote." It is a covenant between me and my God. I have fought electoral fraud in Edo and God mercifully aided me and we defeated some of the progressive forces. If there is nothing else I can do the principle of one man one vote is something I'm committed to.

"So, if he (Sylva) is offended by that it is a pity. Even now for emphasis, Sylva is my brother and I'm not going to fight him on the street."

The Edo State governor said dangerous weapons were used by some of the participants at the venue of the disputed primary.

According to him, weapons such as AK 47, Pump action and live ammunition characterised the exercise.

He said, "Concerning what happened in the stadium I have seen independent reports. Gunshots were being fired. AK 47 guns were recovered, pump action, live ammunition.

"These are not secrets that transpired, I am not the issue and I don't want to be the issue. There are issues that are important to me. This one, I didn't go there as a governor. I went there as a party member on a national assignment by the party and it is a great honour."

Mr. Oshiomhole denied that he was bribed in any way by one of the aspirants, Timi Alaibe, a former managing director of Niger Delta Development Commission, who came second in the purported election.

He explained, “Part of the challenge of leadership is that you have to have some capacity to accommodate all kinds of things. I will leave that to you if you think that I am so helpless that I needed the help of someone.

“And again, talking about the media you know there are things that a vigorous media can deal with. If they were to say that Comrade Adams is the goat and you come to ask me they say you are the goat, I think it is incidentally that we have gone through some tension over the past few years.

“You also know that there was a time I was going to Ekiti state and my chopper was stopped at Benin Airport and I was denied the right to fly because the power that be at the time did not want me to go to Ekiti.

“If you find from your own research that the first time I have had to use a chopper you can draw your conclusion. But I like this Igbo man’s proverb, which says that ‘if you are bathing in a local battle, a mad just collects your clothes and you come out of the bathroom naked and start running after him, people will say – look at these two mad men.

“If they say that I need an applicant, somebody who wants to be governor is the one who has to support a sitting governor, I leave that to their judgement. But I’m not going to condescend to that level. I think there are more other national issues to engage at this point in time but don’t forget even at this hour.”

Meanwhile, there was palpable tension at the national secretariat of the APC on Monday following the alleged threat by a group of militants to stage a protest over the party’s rescheduled primary election in Bayelsa State.

There was heavy presence of an anti-riot squad of the Nigerian Police Force and other security men armed with various weapons in and around the party secretariat located at Blantyre Street, Wuse 11 District of Abuja.

However, Mr. Alaibe, in a statement denied being behind the planned protest. The statement said, “It has come to the notice of the Timi Alaibe Campaign Organisation that certain groups have printed T-shirts and vests in the name of Alaibe and are planning to stage violent protests in Yenagoa and at the national secretariat of the APC in Abuja.

“We dissociate ourselves from such protests and call on the public, security agencies and the national leadership of the APC to please take note.”

Related News

[Bayelsa Primary: “You can’t nullify my election,” Sylva tells APC chair, Oyegun](#) September 25, 2015

[Sylva surrenders, accepts cancellation of victory at APC primary](#) September 29, 2015

[Bayelsa Primary: APC cancels Sylva’s victory](#) September 23, 2015

[How police, ex-Governor Sylva sabotaged Bayelsa APC guber primary -- Oshiomhole](#) September 23, 2015

[Bayelsa Election: Oshiomhole warns governorship aspirants against cloning PVCs](#) September 22, 2015

Sylva's Campaign Aide Israel Sunny-Goli Threatens To Kill APC Deputy Spokesman Timi Frank

Sahara Reporters has learned that the Deputy Spokesman for the All Progressives Congress (APC), Timi Frank, has received death threats from members of APC gubernatorial candidate in Bayelsa State Timipre Sylva's campaign. The source of tension is because the APC spokesman has refused to join Mr. Sylva's campaign for governor in Bayelsa State.

by SaharaReporters, New York Nov 03, 2015



Israel Sunny-Goli, threatened to kill Timipre Sylva's opponents Israel Sunny-Goli

SaharaReporters obtained text messages sent by Israel Sunny-Goli, a top aide to Mr. Sylva, to Timi Frank showing his outrage and disgust toward him. Mr. Sunny-Goli had previously placed Mr. Frank's name in the campaign without his knowledge, leading to a quarrel between the two.

The text from Israel Sunny-Goli said: “U are an idiot.I can’t watch u insult my boss for any reason.You can’t have somebody like Sylva in your entire family. You look like a beast.”

Timi Frank also spoke directly with a SaharaReporters correspondent and said that Mr. Sunny-Goli threatened to kill him during a phone call.

Mr. Frank told our correspondent that “[Israel Sunny-Goli] told me that if I were a man then I would come to Bayelsa [saying critical things]. He said that when the time comes, they know my house in Abuja and then I will be dealt with.”

SaharaReporters also contacted Mr. Sunny-Goli to ask him about his threats and messages, but he repeatedly hung up on our correspondent. He eventually denied threatening to kill Mr. Frank saying, “he is my good friend, and I am a good Christian, why would I do that?”

Timipre Sylva and his aides have had a history of using violence.

During the APC primary elections in Bayelsa State, Sylva’s supporters menacingly surrounded the electoral committee chairperson, Governor Adams Oshiomhole, placing his life in danger before he was rescued by Nigerian troops.



Bayelsa: My Life Under Threat, APC Deputy National Publicity Secretary, Alleges

[By Our Correspondent](#) — Nov 4, 2015 1:24 am | [Leave a comment](#)

Ahead the December governorship elections in Bayelsa State, the crisis in the All Progressives Congress (APC) chapter of the state is deepening as the party's deputy national publicity secretary has locked horns with a lawmaker in the state, with the APC chieftain alleging threat to his life. Timi Frank, deputy national publicity secretary of the APC, has accused Hon. Israel Sunny Goli, the lawmaker representing Brass Constituency 2 in the Bayelsa State House of Assembly of allegedly threatening his life following his decision to abstain from the Campaign organisation of Timipre Sylva constituted Monday by the chairman of the party, Chief Odigie Oyegun.

Timi Frank while briefing journalists in Abuja last Monday had said he did not believe what was happening in the Bayelsa APC and hence would not be involved in the campaigns of the party's candidate in the state.

Since then, however, Frank alleges that several phone calls have been made to his line threatening his life. He named Hon Goli as the architect of the calls as the lawmaker had called his lines threatening that he (Frank) would have himself to blame if he ever stepped into Bayelsa State.

“He (Goli) called my lines several times and when I eventually picked he started reigning insults on me, accusing me of trying to sabotage Sylva's

ambition as well as insulting the APC guber candidate. The lawmaker said they had had enough of me and that if I were man enough that I should step into Bayelsa State and see if I would not meet my Waterloo. “He said that they knew my house in Abuja and that to trace me is no big deal. After listening to him quietly and he slamming the phone on me, I resolved to quickly bring to the public notice this latest threat to my life as it is serious,” he stated.

The national leader said the lawmaker had also sent him a text insulting him and saying, ‘ I will not watch you insult my boss for any reason. You can’t have somebody like Sylva in your entire family ’.

Frank called on the leadership of the APC to immediately take note of the happenings in Bayelsa APC and caution Hon Goli stating that acts such as this would only go a long way in further deepening the already fragmented state of the party in the state.

Reacting to the allegation, however, Hon. Goli said he remained loyal to Chief Timipre Sylva and that he only raised concerns over Frank’s continued insult to the gubernatorial candidate of the APC in the state, stating that if Frank were truly a national officer of the APC he would have queued into the party and not to stay back in Abuja and foment crisis for them in the state.

“Timipre Sylva and he are not mates. He cannot sit back in Abuja and insult him. So I called him and told him not to go far in his antics as God willing by December this year with or without his support we will win the governorship,” Hon. Goli said.

Following the inauguration of the Timipre Sylva Campaign Council of the APC in Bayelsa State by the APC’s national leadership, Timi Frank who was listed among its members quickly withdrew his membership of the organ saying he was not in tune with the procedure through which Sylva had emerged as the party’s flagbearer in the state.

Efforts to get Hon. Goli to react to the allegations yielded no results as text messages and calls put to his line were unanswered as at the time of going to press.

4.4 Munalayefa ‘Don’ Gibson

- The Grand Master of Terrorism

STATUS: University Graduate

NATIVITY: Epebu, Ogbia LGA

AGE: 35

COMPLEXION: Fair-skinned

HEIGHT: About 5’10

Under the administration of Chief Timipre Sylva, he did not hold any political office. Not much is known about him in the political climate since he was under detention for a long period.

However, several cases of murder, arson, unlawful possession of prohibited firearms and related terrorist activities are attached to his name

He is popularly known as the Don and Grand Master of Terrorism.

AGIP has a flow station in his community called Obama Flow Station. The management of the oil company usually pays benefits to the community.

And such payments were usually channeled through the platform of the youth leadership.

At the time Gibson surfaced on the scene, there was an incumbent youth leadership led by the late Mr. N.T Apiri. But Gibson decided to form a parallel youth point. This led to several crises in the community.

The traditional ruler tried to make a truce between the two factions; but unknown to the N.T Apiri group, Gibson and his boys had laid ambush at the waterfront and when Apiri and his boys arrived from Yenagoa, Gibson’s group appeared, opened fire and killed all of them in broad daylight.

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savetheijawnation

That was in the early days of the Timipre Sylva-led-administration.

In the heat of the attack, other members of the N.T Apiri group resident in Epebu fled to the neighboring Emadike Community. The fleeing crowd was trailed and a couple of them were killed, with several houses burnt.

In the same vein, some members of the Emedike Community who tried to resist the Gibson Group were killed and their community was finally taken over by the latter.

The remnant of the Emadike community became refugees and fled into the neighboring communities of Ogbia Kingdom.

To further test their strength, Gibson and his group went and invaded Okigbene Community in Southern Ijaw LGA and killed scores of people.

They later returned to their community (Epebu), intimidated and attacked all perceived opponents, killing scores while several fled for their safety. Only his group was left in the community as even the Traditional Ruler went on forced exile.

Furthermore, he created Creek Criminal Terrorist Gangs (Sea Pirates). They robbed all water-crafts, killed many, maimed several, and this led to the closure of the waterways for several years.

Even security enforcement officers were scared to go there as several police officers had in several encounters been equally killed.

By now AGIP was solely dealing with him and his group for the protection of oil pipeline facilities against vandalization.

The proceeds of that relationship went into the procurement of more sophisticated firearms.

In the final analysis, all reports made to the police and other security agencies yielded no results. He was indeed untouchable.

However, a glimmer of hope came when police officers from Zone 5, Benin arrested him and took him into detention in Benin. Suffice it to add

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here that the process of arrest was not a tea party, as his boys resisted, a situation that led to loss of life from both parties (police and his group). Surprisingly, he was never arraigned in any court of law.

Sources allege that a serving Justice of the Court of Appeal prevented the police from pressing charges against him and in the aftermath, secured his release from detention.

He is now a beneficiary of the Amnesty Rights; an ex-general as they are called and addressed, yet he is still keeping a catchment of prohibited arms.

Meanwhile up to this trying moment, Epebu remains a deserted community; even the Government Primary School with a staff strength of 27 teachers has no pupils in attendance, yet Gibson has been given the mandate to represent Ogbia State Consistency 2 at the BSHA, in the current 2015-2016 democratic dispensation. This mandate was given after a controversial tribunal judgment in his favour allegedly aided by a high ranking judicial officer from Bayelsa State.

ATTACHMENT:

- **Photograph of Munalayefa Gibson**



Munalayefa 'Don' Gibson

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4.5 - OSSOM BLANKSON

– An Uncommon Expertise in Mobilizing Thugs

AGE: Adult

OCCUPATION:

- Civil Servant (Yenagoa Rural Development Authority)
- Business Man
- Also P.A To Sen. Emmanuel Paulker Representing Yenagoa Central Senatorial District

During the 2012/13 Bayelsa State L.G.A Election conducted during the tenure of Late Colonel Sam Inokoba Rtd. (former P.D.P State Chairman), Mr. Ossom Blankson who was an aspirant mobilized thugs and hoodlums and stormed the P.D.P Secretariat on Hospital Road.

In the ensuing fracas, scores of people were injured, cars were vandalized and the P.D.P Secretariat was destroyed.

The timely intervention of mobile police men brought the situation under control. This was the first recorded criminal incident of Mr. Blankson.

During the 2015 Bayelsa State House of Assembly Election, while the election was peacefully progressing, Mr. Blankson stormed the Famgbe Community with armed thugs and proceeded to the polling centre in an attempt to scuttle the voting process.

In the ensuing fracas, members of the Famgbe Community were manhandled and beaten up. It took the intervention of the State Anti-Crime Division (DOO AKPO) to restore normalcy to the community.

This trend of initiating and perpetrating violence during elections reoccurred in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State during the January 9th Governorship Election Re-run when at about 3p.m. Mr. Blankson led armed thugs with various types of arms including, machetes, guns and knives stormed the voting centre in Famgbe, in attempt to snatch ballot boxes.

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Among those assaulted and wounded are Hon. Dan Esueme Kikile (the Bayelsa State Commissioner for Information) and Mr. Markson Fefegha (the Principal Executive Secretary to the Governor) and other PDP community leaders who took refuge at the palace of the traditional ruler all day long to avoid being assaulted and maimed.

This incident was equally reported at the state police station.

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4.6 - OLD HABITS DON'T DIE

- The Story of Paul Eris a.k.a. Gen. Ogunboss

Born 34 years ago in the Peremabiri Town of Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, the average height and light-skinned graduate of the University of Port Harcourt, Paul Eris popularly called General Ogunboss is the CEO of Eristex Pipeline Patrol, a control and patrol outfit that does several jobs for multinational companies like Agip, Shell Chevron and Daweoo in the Niger Delta region.

The Peremabiri warlord who is known to be erratic and violent came into limelight when he relocated from Port Harcourt in Rivers State to Bayelsa State as a militant in 2008.

As at that time, Bayelsa State had about eight militant camps with Southern Ijaw Local Government Area having the highest concentration with six camps.

In order to gain recognition and possibly endear himself to the heart of then Governor, Chief Timipre Sylva, who had begun a programme of engaging militants by paying them monthly allowances, providing accommodation and official vehicles, Ogunboss who never had a camp as a militant in Bayelsa State had to kill a fellow Southern Ijaw warlord, Gibson Kala aka Prince Igodo of Opuama Town on Friday, June 27, 2008.

That invasion of Opuama Town and subsequent killing of the 32-year old Prince Igodo, a father of two children made the desired impacts.

With the development, Ogunboss started benefiting from the monthly largesse doled out by the Sylva's administration to militant leaders in the state.

They were also sheltered inside the Bayelsa State Government House and given official vehicles.

He grew in the ranks and before the Federal Government's Amnesty

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Programme; he had risen to become a commander in the Niger Delta Vigilante Force and a member of the Upper Senate of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), commanding a troop of about 250 youths.

Under his command, MEND carried out numerous attacks against the federal troops and vital oil installation and pipelines in the Niger Delta region.

However, when calm returned to the region with the amnesty programme, the management of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) unveiled a new security strategy aimed at securing oil pipelines and platforms within the Niger Delta region.

In the process, the former militant commander in Bayelsa State (Paul Eris otherwise known as Commander Ogunboss) was appointed to secure oil facilities in the Southern Ijaw area through the instrumentality of his company, Eristex Pipeline Patrol.

ALLEGATIONS LEVELLED AGAINST PAUL ERIS

1. ALLEGED SHORT-CHANGING OF BENEFICIARIES OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AMNESTY PROGRAMME

The period around Sunday, August 24, 2014 about 14 young men laid complains with civil society groups alleging that he (Eris) was short-changing them under the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP) which he was directly in charge of paying their monthly stipends.

They alleged that for about 13 months he was making illegal deductions from their stipends. Some of them said out of the N65,000.00, they received only N30,000 and others were paid N35,000,00, while others said he refused to pay them at all.

PAP was initiated to give succour to unemployed youths as a palliative for them to remain and act within the realm of civility. If therefore anybody was entrusted with the duty of paying them, it was criminal for that person or anyone else to deduct any monies

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except statutory deductions, which are stipulated by the PAP head office.

Civil Society wrote to him advising for the payment anomaly to be corrected, else they would not hesitate to hire a Lawyer for them to assert their rights in a court of law.

2. ABDUCTION OF AN INFANT CHILD FOR RITUAL PURPOSES.

Reports from several quarters have fingers pointed at Ogunboss as being the brain behind the abduction of an infant child from the mother's back and allegedly killed for rituals in his home community of Peremabiri.

3. ATTACK ON CHIEF REMEMBER P.N. OGBE-LED-OIL & GAS TASK FORCE

During the tenure of Chief Remember P.N. Ogbe as the Executive Chairman of Southern Ijaw Local Government Council, an Oil & Gas Task Force was set up and it started operations in the area on the 8th day of May, 2014.

About August 2014, when its operations peaked, the production capacity of the Nigerian Agip Oil Company in its 'Swamp Area Operations' had increased to a level that had never been experienced in 36 months before then. This in turn boosted the revenue of not only the Federal Government but also of Bayelsa State and Southern Ijaw Local Government Area.

In spite of these glaring landmarks, Paul Eris went to town threatening, insulting and throwing cheap blackmail at Chief Ogbe and the Oil & Gas Task Force.

During a routine patrol of the rivers and creeks of Southern Ijaw by the Oil & Gas Task Force, armed bandits numbering about thirteen (13) led by Mr. Kingsley Otokolo, a relative of Ogunboss attacked the Task Force. Otokolo was shot in the process by the armed security operatives attached to the Task Force.

Later Otokolo and two (2) other members of the armed bandit were also

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arrested and were in due course to be prosecuted and arraigned before a competent court of law, as they according to available information had made useful statements to security agencies who investigated the case.

In fact, evidence suggested that the attack on the Southern Ijaw Oil and Gas Task Force was purported to have been carried out on the directive of Paul Eris who within that period had carried out two botched attacks on his community (Peremabiri) to regain forceful control. This among atrocities allegedly initiated by him led to his been banished from the community.

4. THE JANUARY 2016 INVASION OF PEREMABIRI COMMUNITY

Paul Eris is one militant leader whose name brings fear and grief to the residents of Peremabiri, Olugbobiri and Ekeuwei communities all in Southern Ijaw LGA of Bayelsa State.

Ogunboss who is alleged to be involved in several murder and violence cases in the Bayelsa Waterways was also said to have in the company of heavily-armed soldiers, policemen and youths invaded Peremabiri Community during the January 9, 2016 supplementary guber elections.

Peremabiri Community was thrown into pandemonium and so many people ran into the bush, while several through the same bush accessed the neighbouring Igbematoru Community.

Eyewitnesses' reports say that just after the January 9th Governorship re-run elections, King Progress Neverdie, the Paramount Ruler of Peremabiri Kingdom was in the midst of a meeting with his chiefs, ruling council and some stakeholders on their view on the elections.

As the meeting was going on, they heard gunshots and suddenly, Paul 'Ogunboss' Eris decked in black suit and dark glasses and parading a machine gun appeared with about 40 thugs dressed in black and military camouflage, and started shooting at them.

The traditional ruler was shot at close range, falling by Ogunboss' bullets, alongside three other people who died on the spot while nine persons sustained deep gun-shot wounds.

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Paul Eris (Ogunboss) and his thugs were sighted dragging the three corpses to the bush. They later burnt more than 40 houses perceived to belong to their non-supporters. From that moment, Peremabiri became a deserted community.

THE ATTACK ON HRM CHIEF PROGRESS NEVER DIE

The injured monarch eventually rescued by the JTF/Operation Doo Akpoo who were dispatched to the community on the directives of the State Governor, Hon. Seriake Henry Dickson when the community sent out an SOS to him, was first admitted at the Glory Land Hospital, Yenagoa before he was later transferred to an undisclosed hospital at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja for another round of surgery

Weeks later, he was flown abroad for further medical treatment.

THE OTHER VICTIMS OF THE PEREMABIRI INVASION

The death toll of victims of the December 5 and 6, 2015 and January 9, Governorship Election rose to 20.

Those who died at the spot of attack were one Trophy, Warimeke Polome and Erepade while additional nine people with severe gun injuries were admitted for treatment at the Glory Land Hospital, Yenagoa.

The affected people are Ebi Lambert, Ayibaesin Kala, Ekpoibimunu Newman, Julius Waritua, Malomo Polomi, Felix Ebi, Mike Tata, Daddy Tarimimo and a certain Emmanuel.

ALLEGED COMPROMISE FROM THE POLICE

Following the development, the Bayelsa State Commissioner of Police, Peter Ogunyanwo visited the Traditional Ruler of Peremabiri, Progress Neverdie on his hospital bed.

Later the ComPol at the end of the emergency Security Council meeting assured the people that Ogunboss and other perpetrators would after thorough investigation face prosecution for violence perpetrated and

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unleashed during the Bayelsa State Supplementary Governorship Elections.

According to Ogunyanwo, the police command was working hard to restore peace to the Peremabiri Community. He assured the people that the command would prosecute all those involved in the terror attack on the town after the poll, submitting that it would serve as deterrent to others.

However, to the chagrin of Bayelsans, Ogunboss is still walking the streets of Bayelsa not only freely but with a heavy police security. And has refused to honour the invitation extended to him by the police.

But the people of Peremabiri still seek justice.

ATTACHMENTS:

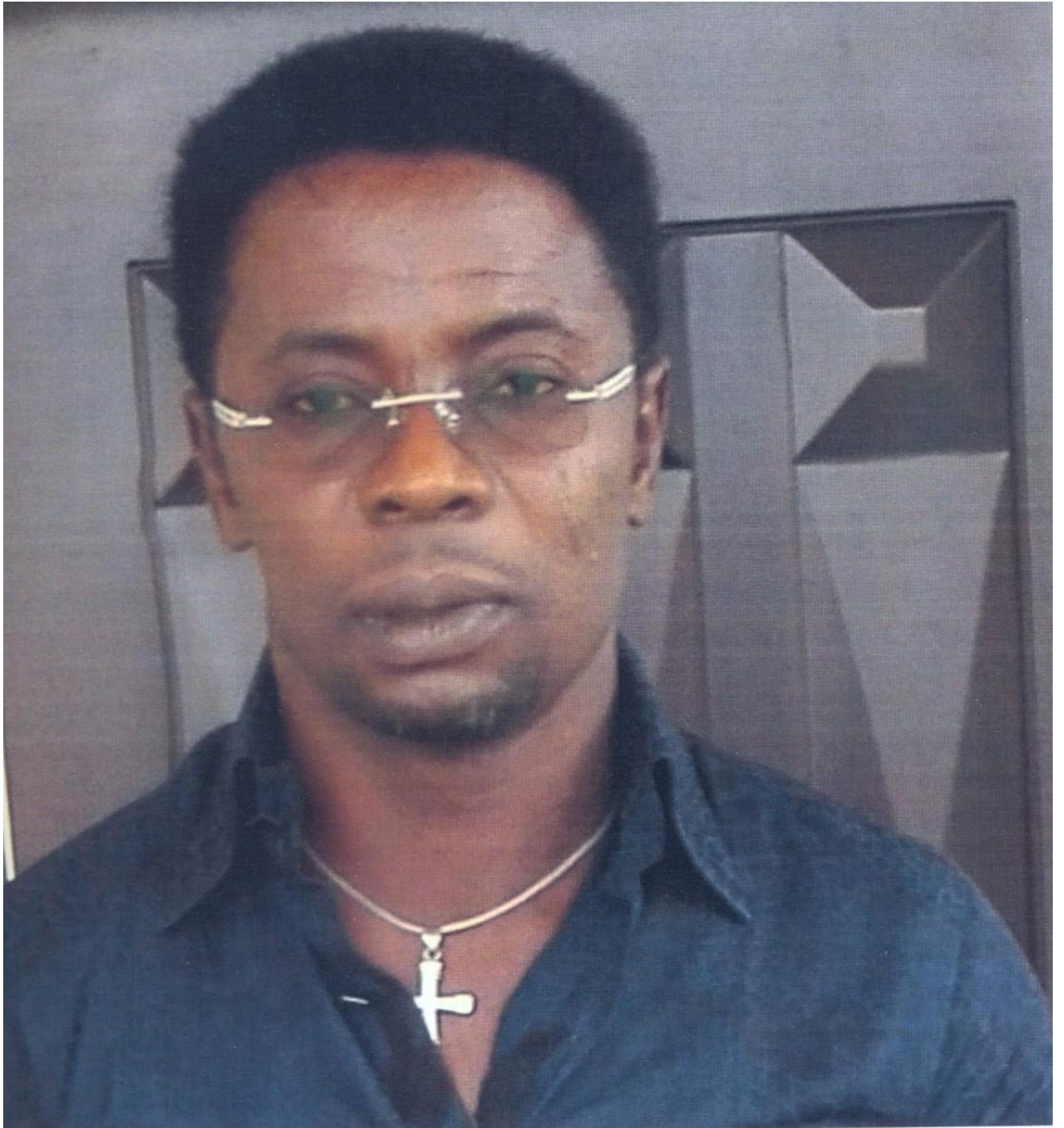
The following additional documentation in respect of the above-detailed report is attached on the pages stated hereafter:

- **Photograph of Paul Eris**
- **Photograph of Paul Eris at an APC Gathering**
- **Photograph of the unconscious body of HRH Progress Neverdie**
- **Unwarranted Attack On Gov. Dickson And Chief Remember P.N. Ogbe**
- **Bayelsa supplementary poll: Ex-militant leaders shun police invitation**
- **Militant who attacked Peremabiri in Southern Ijaw were led by Ogunboss – Obuebite alleges**
- **NIGERIA: Ex-militant leader heads SPDC's patrol team**

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- **BREAKING: POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE IN BAYELSA STATE, SEVEN KILLED**
- **EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT OF HOW MR. PAUL ERIS aka OGUNBOSS invaded Peremabiri in Southern/Ijaw LGA on the 10th, January, 2016**
- **Bayelsa poll: Police go after notorious militant leader, as death toll hits 20**
- **Bayelsa Election Violence: Police to Arrest Ex-Militant Leader, Ogunboss**
- **Bayelsa Poll: Injured monarch to be flown abroad**

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Paul Eris

"Save Bayelsa; Save the Niger Delta..." #savethejawnation



**Some alleged notorious thugs and ex-militants gather for the APC.
The one spotting a necklace is Mr. Paul Eris aka General Ogunboss who shot the king of
Peremabiri and killed several other people in Southern Ijaw LGA.**

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The unconscious body of HRH King Progress Neverdie - Paramount Ruler of Peremabiri Community in Southern Ijaw LGA of Bayelsa State. He was shot by Mr. Paul Eris aka General Ogunboss who served as an APC Thug during the Governorship Elections in Bayelsa State.

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UNWARRANTED ATTACK ON GOV. DICKSON AND CHIEF REMEMBER P.N. OGBE

Posted by [SAINT MIENPAMO](#) on [August 19, 2014](#)



PRESS RELEASE.

The attention of the Executive Chairman of Southern Ijaw Local Government Council has been drawn to a malicious post on Facebook by one ex militant, Mr. Paul Eris aka Gen Ogunboss disparaging the person of the executive Governor of Bayelsa State, His Excellency, Hon Henry Seriake Dickson and my office over the good work being carried out by the Oil and Gas Task Force put in place by the council to stem the tide of crude oil theft, illegal refining of petroleum products, pipeline vandalisation and illegal bunkering in the council area.

It is pertinent to state that since the Southern Ijaw Local Government Oil & Gas Task Force started operations in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area on the 8th day of May, 2014, the Production capacity of the Nigerian Agip Oil Company in its 'Swamp Area Operations' has increased to a level that has never been experienced in the last three (3) years. This in turn has boosted the revenue of not only the Federal Government but also of Bayelsa State and Southern Ijaw Local Government Area.

In spite of these glaring landmarks, one concupiscent ignorant ex-militant, parading himself as an 'ex-general' and/or more specifically known as 'Paul Eris (a.k.a Gen. Ogunboss)' went

to town insulting and throwing cheap blackmail at Governor Seriake Dickson (Con), Chief Remember Ogbe (Chairman Southern Ijaw Local Government) e.t.c.

It would amount to succumbing to summons to amnesia to even devote any precious time reading his tirade, slanders and endless stream of lies, poured forth in crude, odious and repulsive claims, as all form of ferocious outrages, cruelty and political brigandage were let loose in this unfathomable dept of buffoonery displayed by this brutal and treacherous element.

Paul Eris (a.k.a Gen. Ogunboss) became so suffused in egocentric euphoria and demonstrated crass imprudence, falsehood and rascality when he, regrettably, insulted and blackmailed Governor Seriake Dickson in his facebook page and furthered averred that the civilian members of the 'Remember Ogbe led Oil & Gas Task Force' shot his innocent brother for carrying empty plastic cans on his speed boat.

Paul Eris (a.k.a Gen. Ogunboss) malicious claim that the civilian members of the 'Remember Ogbe led Oil & Gas Task Force' shot his innocent brother for carrying empty plastic cans on his speed boat is not only false, but same was made by him maliciously to discredit the Task Force.

It is pertinent to highlight that only personnel of the Joint Task Force (JTF), Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) carry arms, and no civilian members of the Task Force bear arms. To set the record straight, during a routine patrol of the rivers and creeks of Southern Ijaw by the Oil & Gas Task Force, an armed bandit numbering thirteen (13) persons (including Mr. Kingsley Otokolo) attacked the Task Force. The said attack on the Task Force led by Mr. Kingsley Otokolo, a relative of Ogunboss and twelve others, led to the shooting of Mr. Kingsley Otokolo by the armed security operatives attached to the Task Force.

Mr. Kingsley Otokolo and two (2) other members of the armed bandit that attacked the Task Force were also arrested and will in due course, to be arraigned before a competent court of law, and they have from information available made useful statements to security agencies who are investigating the case. Infact there are evidence suggesting that the attack on the Southern Ijaw Oil and Gas Task Force was purported to have been carried out on the directive of Mr. Paul Eris (a.k.a Gen. Ogunboss), who has himself, in recent times carried out two botched attacks on his community (Peremabiri) to regain forceful control. The Council has directed the security agencies to investigate the attack and all perpetrators will be brought to book. Therefore, Ogunboss should not attempt to shield himself in the name of a prayer warrior for Mr. President.

Mr. Paul Eris (a.k.a Gen. Ogunboss) also attempted to blackmail Governor Seriake Dickson and hoodwink the public that he and some ex-militant paid the sum of ₦300,000.00 to use Izon-Wari for fasting and prayers for President Goodluck Jonathan. It is common knowledge that Izon-Wari is one of the revenue generating assets of Bayelsa State, and the sum of ₦300,000.00 is the statutory fee for its use by any person for social programs including government functions

Mr. Paul Eris (a.k.a Gen. Ogunboss) is also blackmailing Governor Seriake Dickson that he is not loyal to President Goodluck Jonathan and/or working against the 2nd term ambition of President Goodluck Jonathan all because his group was asked to pay the mandatory fee for

the use of a hall. His Excellency, Governor Seriake Dickson has at all times worked tirelessly through his restoration agenda to implement and support the transformation agenda of President Goodluck Jonathan.

It is an open secret that Governor Seriake Dickson is at the fore-front of the 2nd term bid of President Goodluck Jonathan and has even incurred political enemies for himself as a result of his (The Governor) undiluted support for Mr. President which date back to his days as a Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State.

Thus, the cheap and false tantrum thrown by Mr. Paul Eris (a.k.a Gen. Ogunboss) should be seen as malicious blackmail by an ex-militant who had been run out of criminality by the Governor Seriake Dickson led Government. Indeed, rule of law has come to stay.

The general public is hereby urged to disregard whatever infamy poured out by ex-militant Paul Eris (a.k.a Gen. Ogunboss), in that same was made by him in a bid to rescue his criminal minded younger brother and to perpetrate falsehood

CHIEF REMEMBER P.N. OGBE
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
SOUTHERN IJAW L.G.A

Militant who attacked Peremabiri in Southern Ijaw were led by Ogunboss – Obuebite alleges

By [Seun Opejobi](#) on January 7, 2016

Barely 48 hours to Bayelsa State supplementary election, the Director of Publicity of Governor Seriake Dickson's campaign team, the Restoration Campaign Organisation, RCO, Jonathan Obuebite, has accused a militant group led by General Eris Paul, a.k.a Ogunboss of attacking Peremabiri community in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of the State, shooting sporadically and forcing the people to scamper for safety.

Obuebite, said this during a live telephone programme on the state-owned media Glory FM in Yenagoa, the state capital.

He said the shootings which occurred on Tuesday lasted for several hours, forced the people to scamper for safety, while business and commercial activities were crippled in the area.

Obuebite, while condemning the state of insecurity in the area, stressed the need for relevant government agencies to step up their games in order to ensure a hitch-free poll in the area, adding that perpetrators of the act should be punished.

He recalled that Dickson had during a press conference, alleged that the All Progressives Congress, APC, was planning to rig the election by unleashing violence and mayhem during the supplementary election billed to hold on Saturday in Southern Ijaw.

“I want to remind the public that Dickson only yesterday, while addressing a world press conference, drew the attention of the public to plot by the APC to rig the rerun election in Southern Ijaw by further unleashing violence.

“The attack on Peremabiri by militants led by General Ogunbos has vindicated our position as a party,” he said.



NIGERIA: Ex-militant leader heads SPDC's patrol team

by Chris Ejim, [Nigerian Compass](#) - January 8th, 2010

Authorities of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) yesterday unveiled a new security strategy at securing oil pipelines and platforms within the Niger Delta region.

SPDC said that it has appointed a former militant commander in Bayelsa State, Mr. Eris Paul, otherwise known as Commander Ogunboss to secure oil facilities in the Southern Ijaw area.

Aged 34, Paul is a native of Peremabiri in Southern-Ijaw Local Government area of Bayelsa State.

Before the Federal Government's amnesty programme, he was a commander in the Niger Delta Vigilante Force and at the upper Senate of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) and commanded a troop of about 250 youths.

Under his command, MEND carried out numerous attacks against the Federal troops and vital oil installation and pipelines in the Niger Delta area.

Paul confirmed the story yesterday and said that he had taken a familiarisation tour of his area of surveillance and met with the community leaders to seek their understanding and co-operation in his new assignment.

In a statement by his company, Eristex Pipeline Patrol, Paul urged the oil bearing communities to keep the spirit of the amnesty programme offered the ex-militants and shun acts that could impede the operations of oil companies in the region.

BREAKING: POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE IN BAYELSA STATE, SEVEN KILLED

Posted by [Cedric Thomas Idiong](#) - Date: January 10, 2016



SOS TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE....

A CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE ARREST OF PAUL ERIS (MR OGUNBOS) FOR ATTACKING THE KING OF PEREMABIRI HRH KING PROGRESS NEVER-DIE, OTHERS.

—OGUNBOS AND THUGS ATTACK KING OF PEREMABIRI
—KING BATTLES FOR LIFE, FOUR BULLETS EXTRACTED
—SEVEN MORE PEOPLE KILLED; SEVERAL INJURED, HOUSES TORCHED.

The SAVE SOUTHERN-IJAW GROUP is calling for the immediate apprehension and arrest of Mr. PAUL ERIS aka General Ogunbos for attacking the paramount ruler of Peremabiri Community. In the early hours of today 10th January, 2015, Mr. Ogunbos and a group of thugs raided the palace of the paramount ruler, shooting sporadically and inflicting life-threatening injuries on HRH KING PROGRESS NEVERDIE.

Following a distress call from a member of the King's family, a speedboat was despatched to carry the fatally wounded King to a Specialist Hospital. So far, four bullets have been extracted from his legs and near his chest, as the Paramount ruler battles for his dear life.

AS at the time of filling this report, OGUNBOS AND HIS THUGS HAVE GUNNED DOWN SEVEN OTHER PERSONS WHILE SEVERAL PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INJURED. COUNTLESS HOUSES HAVE EQUALLY BEEN DESTROYED.



Ogun Boss and his men in action

MR. OGUNBOS played some dirty roles for the APC for the past couple of months. IN Ijaw tradition, it is a sacrilege for anyone, no matter how highly placed to kill your king. MR. PAUL ERIS is an indigene of Peremabi Community. Ogunbos and his thugs have severally perpetrated violence in Peremabiri, and this atrocity is one too many.

The call for the immediate arrest of Ogunbos by the SAVE SOUTHERN-IJAW GROUP is to prevent further atrocities by the ex-militant and his thugs. Any one with useful information concerning his whereabouts should report to the nearest police station.

We hereby call on the INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE to act swiftly before the ex-combatant commits more havoc.

Felix Amabebe-Owei

for: SAVE SOUTHERN – IJAW GROUP

10/01/2016

[Welcome To Nkiru Homann's Blog – NHB](#)

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MR PAUL ERIS IS A HARDENED CRIMINAL AND KILLER WHO MUST BE ARRESTED NOW. HE SERVED AS APC THUG AND KILLER MACHINE IN THE JUST CONCLUDED BAYELSA STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION.

[11th January 2016 nkiruhomann 0 Comment](#)

ONE OF THE VICTIMS IN THE PEREMABIRI ATTACK WHO ESCAPED BY HIS WHISKERS

EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT OF HOW MR. PAUL ERIS aka OGUNBOS invaded Peremabiri in Southern/Ijaw LGA on the 10th, January, 2016.

—THUGGERY WAS SPONSORED BY APC —THE PEREMABIRI PEOPLE SEEK JUSTICE —OGUNBOS SHOULD BE ARRESTED WITH HIS FELLOW CULPRITS AND TRIED IN ICC BECAUSE IT WAS A CRIME OF GENOCIDAL PROPORTION.

King Progress Neverdie the Paramount ruler of Peremabiri held a meeting with his Chief and some stakeholders on their view on the elections. They resolved that to allow free and fair election, everyone should be given the right to vote for a party of his choice. As the meeting was going on, they heard gunshots and suddenly, Ogunbos in black suite and dark glasses appeared with about 40 thugs and started shooting at them.

The King was felled by Ogunbos bullets, who was using a machine gun and three people died at the spot while nine persons sustained deep gun-shot wounds. Those who died at the spot are one Trophy, Warimeke Polome and Erepade while Ebi Lambert and 8 others. The eye witness who was visibly shaken, could not remember all the names as he was stressed to the

point of overkill. Consequently, the whole Peremabiri Community was thrown into pandemonium and so many people ran into the bush and accessed Igbematoru from the bush.

Paul Eris (Ogunbos) and his thugs were sighted dragging the three corpses to the bush. Then they poured petrol on more than 30 houses perceived to be supporters of PDP. Peremabiri is now deserted as the APC thugs ran rampage.

The people are calling on the the INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE AND THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, BAYELSA STATE Police COMMAND TO GET MR PAUL ERIS ARRESTED AND BRING ALL THE APC THUGS TO BOOK.

APC's Ogunbos has sacked the Premebabiri Community and it is now a ghost town he said. At that point the boy slumped and was rushed to the emergency ward of a hospital outside Yenagoa for protection.

Picture 1. Shows Mr. Paul Eris (OGUNBOS) and the rest are few of his victims in Premabiri. The three persons who were shot dead have been burnt, nine person in critical conditions, 40 houses torched, and Peremabiri is a Ghost town. Even the King was not spared.

Source: John Idumange

Bayelsa poll: Police go after notorious militant leader, as death toll hits 20

Posted by [Segun Adebowale](#) on January 12, 2016 in [Featured](#), [Politics](#) | [Leave a response](#)

Meanwhile, the traditional ruler of Peremabiri community, Chief Progress Never Die, who was shot at close range by the suspected militant group, led by Ogunboss, and additional nine people with severe gun injuries were brought to Yenagoa on Monday night and are receiving treatment at the Glory Land Hospital, Yenagoa



The Bayelsa State Police Command has promised to beam its searchlight on a notorious ex-militant, Eris Paul, popularly known as Ogunboss, and others who masterminded the terrorism and violence during the December 5 and 6, 2015 and January 9, 2016 governorship election.

No fewer than 14 persons, including soldiers and police officers, were said to have died in the Bayelsa State governorship election.

Meanwhile, the traditional ruler of Peremabiri community, Chief Progress Never Die, who was shot at close range by the suspected militant group, led by Ogunboss, and additional nine people with severe gun injuries were brought to Yenagoa on Monday night and are receiving treatment at the Glory Land Hospital, Yenagoa.

The affected people are Ebi Lambert, Ayibaesin Kala, Ekpoibimunu Newman, Julius Waritua, Malomo Polomi, Felix Ebi, Mike Tata, Daddy Tarimimo and Emmanuel.

Speaking with journalists in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State Commissioner of Police, Peter Ogunyanwo, said Ogunbos and his boys would face prosecution after thorough investigation.

According to Ogunyanwo, the police command was working hard to restore

peace to the Peremabiri community.

He assured the people that the command would prosecute all those involved in the terror attack on the town after the poll, submitting that it would serve as deterrent to others.

An eyewitness also spoke on the Peremabiri attacks, saying on the day of the poll, supporters of the PDP were holding a meeting to strategise on how to vote for the incumbent governor and candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party, Henry Seriake Dickson, when information came to them that General Ogunbos and his boys were planning to attack the community.

He said: “As we heard of the planned attack, we all came out from the venue of the meeting in Peremabiri Constituency 3.

“Amongst us were the paramount ruler of the community, Chief Progress Never Die, and a host of other PDP supporters.

“Suddenly, we saw General Ogunbos and his boys who were all armed with AK 47 appearing from different directions shooting at us.

“In the ensuing confusion, we ran into the nearby bushes for safety, where some of us took a local boat to Igbomotoru Community.

“Even as we speak, General Ogunbos and his boys have overran the community, occupied it and burnt down houses, including that of Chief Progress Never Die and supporters of the PDP, while the community has been deserted as many of the people are hiding in the nearby bushes and some have fled to neighbouring communities.”



Bayelsa Election Violence: Police to Arrest Ex-Militant Leader, Ogunboss

Posted by George on Wed 13th Jan, 2016 - tori.ng

A suspect in the array of electoral violence that marred the Saturday's supplementary election in the South-south part of Nigeria is to be apprehended by the police for investigation.



Eris Paul

Police in Bayelsa State say they are going after an ex-militant leader, Eris Paul, popularly known as General Ogunboss, and his lieutenants, suspected in the outbreak of violence during the supplementary election of the gubernatorial poll in the state on Saturday.

The State Police Commissioner, Peter Ogunyanwo, made this known in an interview with Premium Times in Yenagoa. Mr. Ogunyanwo said reports made available to the command showed that the ex-militant leader in company of heavily armed soldiers, policemen and youth, invaded Peremambiri community.

Peremambiri is a community located in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area and was one of the locations for the supplementary election. According to Mr. Ogunyanwo, several persons including the [King of Peremambiri Kingdom, Progress Never Die, were allegedly shot by the ex-militant.](#)

“We received report that the Peremambiri king was allegedly attacked by an ex-militant called Ogunboss,” the police boss said.

“I came to visit the king on the directive of the IG and to wish him heavenly recovery and by God’s grace, he shall make it.

“Currently, we learnt that the ex-militant is still at the riverine part of the Southern Ijaw Local Government Area. We have our gunboats patrolling the area to ensure that we track him down.

“We learnt that he is still within the area and our officers and men are monitoring to ensure that he is arrested anytime they spot him if he tries to come back to Yenagoa or Peremambiri.”

The police commissioner said the Inspector General of Police, Solomon Arase, had earlier directed that security operatives be withdrawn from the ex-militant.

Bayelsa poll: Injured monarch to be flown abroad

Posted by [Segun Adebawale](#) on January 14, 2016 in [Politics](#) | [Leave a response](#)

Chief Never Die was first admitted at the Glory Land Hospital before he was later transferred to an undisclosed hospital at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja for another round of surgery.



The traditional ruler of Peremabiri community, Chief Progress Never Die, who was shot at close range by suspected militant group, led by Eris Paul, popularly known as Ogunboss, during the rescheduled Bayelsa State governorship election in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area will be flown abroad for further medical treatment.

Meanwhile, the death toll of victims of December 5 and 6, 2015 and January 9, governorship election has risen to 20.

Chief Never Die was first admitted at the Glory Land Hospital before he was later transferred to an undisclosed hospital at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja for another round of surgery.

Sources stated that necessary documents are being put in place for Chief Never Die to be overseas treatment.

Additional nine people with severe gun injuries are receiving treatment at the Glory Land Hospital, Yenagoa.

The affected people are Ebi Lambert, Ayibaesin Kala, Ekpoibimunu Newman, Julius Waritua, Malomo Polomi, Felix Ebi, Mike Tata, Daddy Tarimimo and Emmanuel.

The state Commissioner of Police, Peter Ogunyanwo, had at the end of the Security Council meeting assured the people that Ogunboss and other perpetrators would face prosecution after thorough investigation.

According to Ogunyanwo, the police command was working hard to restore peace to the Peremabiri community. He assured the people that the command would prosecute all those involved in the terror attack on the town after the poll, submitting that it would serve as deterrent to others.

OUR DEMANDS

There is a Human Rights crisis in Nigeria. Since the new APC Government of President Muhammadu Buhari took office in May 29th 2015, thousands of people are being exposed to danger because of belonging to the opposition party, PDP. During recent elections they are being hunted down, maimed, kidnapped, raped, dispossessed and murdered; and the perpetrators, who are members of the ruling party, APC are going about unpunished.

Nigeria's APC Government under President Buhari urgently needs to protect the lives and properties of members of the opposition party, PDP who now constitute a vulnerable and endangered group in the country.

THE MURDER OF MRS. GODGIFT'S SON, MASTER ISAAC GODGIFT

Master Isaac Godgift was a young man who disappeared on January 10th, 2016. He was from Peremabri Community in Southern Ijaw. On the day he disappeared he was with friends in the community for the elections. Suddenly there was an ambush by Mr. Ogunboss and his boys. Master Godgift ran into the bush and disappeared.

A few days later his headless body was found floating in a nearby river. The Nigerian Police Force has refused to investigate the murder of Master Isaac Godgift or those who were shot at and left destitute in an IDP camp.

THE MURDER OF MR ABULE

Mr. Abule was a PDP agent. On Sunday, December 6, 2015, after the voting exercise of the previous day, he was returning home with others from Oporoma, when his boat was ambushed between Agobiri and Angamabri by two boats carrying APC thugs. They were shot at sporadically and their boat sank. Mr. Abule died of gunshot wounds and his corpse was later found in a river. Again the Nigerian Police have refused to bring charges against the perpetrators of this murder.

Murdered for supporting the opposition party, PDP; Master Isaac Godgift and Mr. Abule are some of the latest victims of a horrific and growing trend in Nigeria perpetrated against members and supporters of the opposition party during elections since President Buhari took office in May 29th 2015.

Attacks against PDP members have increased sharply; this same trend was observed at the recent by- elections in Rivers State.

Over 200 members and supporters of the opposition party in Bayelsa State have either been killed, maimed and/or abducted; their properties vandalized, while some are living in an IDP camp, although the real figure of the total number victims could be higher.

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The rise in these targeted attacks has led to many members and supporters of PDP completely abandoning their communities to live in an IDP camp with their children. Some people have permanently moved to other communities for fear of the unknown, thereby restricting their Right to Freedom of Movement and Lawful Association.

The Nigerian government must act.

The Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has not come out to specifically condemn the wave of attacks on members and supporters of the PDP but has only made sweeping statements touching on election violence and calling on the police to arrest the perpetrators; but the police and governmental response since then has not been encouraging.

With the exception of the 14 APC chieftains arrested with AK47's in Southern Ijaw, and whose cases have dragged on because of official interference by the APC Government officials from Abuja; in Bassambri, Peremabri and Brass communities for instance where the worst cases of violence were recorded, no one has been arrested or prosecuted.

We are therefore calling on the President of Nigeria to take the following actions urgently.

Dear President Muhammadu Buhari, we the undersigned are calling on you to:

- Protect members of the PDP from attacks by members of the APC.
- Order the Nigerian Police Force to begin the immediate investigation, arrest and prosecution of the murderers of Master Isaac Godgift, Mr. Abule and Mr. Menoze Peter.
- Order the Nigerian Police Force to secure Peremabri Community and to see to the safe return of members of this community from the IDP camp in Yenagoa to their various homes.
- Order the Nigerian Police Force to begin the immediate investigation, arrest and prosecute of APC hoodlums who shot at, burnt down and looted properties of PDP members.
- Order the non-interference of court proceedings against the 14 APC chieftains by powerful members of the APC.
- Order the arrest and prosecution of their main sponsor of the Operation Famou Tangbei (OFT), Chief Timipre Sylva.
- Order the investigation, arrest and immediate prosecution of members of Operation

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Famou Tangbei (OFT) and the high profile murders and disappearances they have been accused of especially in the cases of the following;

a) Freddie Philip Ockiya: the U. S. Department of State under its 'Diplomacy in Action' programme in its report dwelt on the murder of Ockiya.

b) Tochukwu Uzoukwu: Amnesty International (AI) in investigating human rights abuses against residents of Bayelsa, dealt with Tochukwu Uzoukwu, who was allegedly murdered by operatives of the OFT.

c) Ezonasa Dietemepreye: Amnesty also probed the disappearance of one Ezonasa Dietemepreye, who was shot and arrested by OFT around February 22, 2011 and had not been seen since then.

d) Karina Frank-Oputu

e) Termination of Life by Forced Drowning (unnamed victim).

f) Victor Emmanuel

g) ThankGod Michael

- Order the investigation, arrest and prosecution of the following who have been identified by different eyewitnesses' accounts as being leaders of the terror campaign in Bayelsa State.

a) Senator Heineken Lokpobiri - The self-styled "Hitler of Ekeremor".

b) Hon. Israel Sunny Goli (a.k.a Adi)

c) Munalayefa 'Don' Gibson

d) Ossom Blankson

e) Paul Eris a.k.a. General Ogunboss.

We the undersigned are also calling on the United Nations, Amnesty International, Human Rights Organisations, Civil Society Groups and the International Community to partner with us as we press charges at the International Criminal Court and begin the immediate prosecution of the following people who have been identified by different eyewitnesses' accounts as leaders and sponsors of terror groups that fuelled murders, attempted murders, abductions, looting, abused human rights as well as perpetrated several acts of terror in Bayelsa State;

1) Members of Operation Famou Tangbei (OFT) and their sponsor, Chief Timipre Sylva, who were fingered in several high profile murders that raised the concerns of the US State Department (Please see attachments).

2) a) Senator Heineken Lokpobiri - The self-styled "Hitler of Ekeremor".

b) Hon. Israel Sunny Goli (a.k.a Adi)

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- c) Munalayefa 'Don' Gibson
- d) Ossom Blankson
- e) Paul Eris a.k.a. General Ogunboss.

3) We call on the United Nations, Amnesty International, Human Rights Organisations, Civil Society Groups and the International Community to help secure the lives and properties of the electorate in the coming elections in Edo and Ondo States.

4) We call on the United Nations, Amnesty International, Human Rights Organisations, Civil Society Groups and the International Community to partner with and support us as we organise a National Peace Conference in Nigeria to forestall further bloodshed against opposition parties before the above elections.

SIGNED BY THE UNDER-LISTED MEMBER GROUPS OF THE SAVE THE IJAW NATION GROUP, NIGERIA;

1. Save The Ijaw Nation
2. Centre for Electoral Integrity
3. Women Advocacy for Democratic Governance
4. Media Rights Agenda, Lagos

Dated Today Friday, March 11, 2016

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