

# Cult clash over woman leaves one dead in Rivers

April 7, 2026 12:39 am



By Dennis Naku

A yet-to-be-identified man was shot dead during an intra-cult clash along Abakaliki Street in the Mile 1 axis of Diobu, Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, on Sunday evening.

*PUNCH Metro* gathered on Monday that the clash involved suspected members of the Doggies and White Eagle Houses of the deadly Deybam cult, reportedly over territorial control.

A source, who claimed anonymity because of fear of attack, told *PUNCH Metro* that the confrontation escalated on Easter Sunday due to a dispute over a young girl between two men from different gangs of the same cult.

“They are all members of the Deybam cult, but there are different houses within the cult known as ‘Doggies’ and ‘White Eagle.’

“These men from the different houses had eyes on this lady, and their paths crossed while trying to get her attention. That led to disaffection, and gunfire ensued.

“The young man, who had just left a store where he went to buy bread, was hit by bullets from assailants who drove past in a vehicle.”

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He added that the incident created panic among residents, who scrambled for safety, fearing possible reprisals or being hit by stray bullets.

When contacted, the spokesperson for the State Police Command, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the incident, describing it as a cult-related clash between members of the same group.

Iringe-Koko said, “Yes, I can confirm the incident.” It is linked to intra-cult clashes between members of a particular cult group in Diobu.

“The Commissioner of Police, Olugbenga Adepaju, has ordered a manhunt for the perpetrators with a view to bringing them to justice. Meanwhile, security has been reinforced in the area as investigations continue.”

Residents of the densely populated area said operatives from the Mile 1 Police Division later arrived at the scene to retrieve the victim’s body shortly after the gunmen fled.

PUNCH Metro reports that the command has repeatedly confirmed intra-cult clashes between the BS and D12 Houses of the Deybam cult over the past few years, with some notable arrests having been made.