

Cult: 5 female corpses found in Rivers' forest

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FIVE decomposing female corpses suspected to be victims of last year's December 31, cult clash at Rumuakine, in Obi Akpor, Rivers State have been recovered by a hunter in the forest, just as fear and trepidation pervade the community. The corpses were recovered by a hunter last Friday, January 5, while hunting animal in the thick forest near the scene of the clash that claimed over twelve persons and injured more on the eve of the new year in the community.

The decomposing corpses which were recovered almost same week some bodies of the victims of the attack were buried in a separate grave by their parents. Our correspondent who witnessed the burial observed that parents of the deceased were wailing uncontrollably, while some relatives blamed the

attack on the rival cult.

Although the real identities of the female victims were yet to be ascertained as the deceased dressed in black jeans trousers and black shirts, *Daily Champion* gathered that the girls who were aged 20 to 25 years, were allegedly shot dead by two cult groups.

Meanwhile, a community vigilante member was also killed by the cultists. *Daily Champion* also gathered that, fears and anxiety pervade the Rumuakine and Rumuosi communities near the University of Port Harcourt, the state capital, as the villagers received more letters of threats from the cult members outside the community. Our investigations revealed that youths of the community have almost deserted the town for the fear of reprisal attack by the rival cult group.

It was gathered that, the five female victims were among the

girls serving in the midnight before the sudden attack took place in the forest, just as some victims escaped with various degrees of bullet wounds. Most of those hospitalised in different clinics allegedly died. It would be recalled that less than 72 hours to the new year celebration in Port Harcourt, over 26 persons were killed at separated cult clashes by members of various groups, while some injured persons are still receiving treatments at different hospitals and clinics in the state capital.

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COMMUTERS in Enugu, including civil servants and school children, were on Monday stranded following the dearth of commercial vehicles plying various routes.