

Gunmen kill 7-month-old baby in Rivers

TONY ITA ETIM, *Port Harcourt*

UNIDENTIFIED gunmen Thursday morning killed a seven-month-old child in Rivers State.

Daily Champion gathered that four gunmen stormed the residence of the child's parents in Ogoloma, Okrika local government area in the early hours of Thursday.

The gunmen, who forced their way into the apartment, asked the parents of the late child to bring an undisclosed amount of money.

When the couple hesitated, the gunmen suspected to be armed robbers started shooting sporadically and in the process the baby was hit by bullets.

The child died before help could get to him while the parents who also had bullet wounds are currently receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital in Okrika.

Sources, however, told our reporter that the couple are in critical condition at the hospital.

When our correspondent called the Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Felix Ogbaudu, to confirm the incident, his number was permanently busy.

But a police source in Okrika told our correspondent that the incident was a case of robbery.

According to the source, the robbers seemed to have been aware that the couple has money at home.

Meanwhile, residents of Port Harcourt are worried that soldiers who were patrolling the streets of the city in the wake of recent violence in the city have been withdrawn.

According to some residents, only Mobile policemen now man the various checkpoints in the city.