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Gunmen kill 19 in Rivers

By Victor Edozie, Port Harcourt | Publish Date: May 2 2016 5:00AM

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Nineteen persons have been killed at Ula-Upata and Edoha in Ahoada east local government area of Rivers State by gunmen suspected to be members of a cult group.

An eyewitness said the gunmen first invaded Ula-Upata community about 1.00 pm on Saturday and killed 12 persons. The witness said the heavily armed gang members reappeared again about 9.00pm the same day and killed two other persons.

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The witness said the killers later moved to Edoha, a village near Ula-Upata and beheaded five persons, and that the headless bodies of the victims littered the road.

He said the incident caused apprehension in the affected communities as residents were forced to flee their villages.

Another source who pleaded anonymity because of the tensed security situation of the area blamed the killings on politicians from the area who he accused of arming the youths during the election. The source said the youths who were later abandoned by the politicians

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turned their guns on the residents.

Similar incident occurred in January when 16 persons were killed in the area.

When contacted, the Rivers State Assistant Police Public Relation Officer, Grace Koko said the incident was a war of supremacy involving two rival cult groups, but that only two persons were confirmed dead during the attack.



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