

Five die, others injured in Rivers cults clash

From **Obinna Nwaoku**, Port Harcourt

ABOUT five persons have reportedly died, while others were injured as gunmen suspected to be cultists invaded a housing estate in Ahoada East Local Council of Rivers State late night on Saturday, November 5, in search of rival members of another cult group.

The Guardian learnt that a gun battle ensued between the invaders suspected to be members of the Greenland cult group and their rivals, the Iceland cult group, which resulted in the death of about eight persons and a woman sustaining gunshot wounds.

According to a source, corpses of the deceased littered the estate up to Sunday morning, adding that residents scampered to safety and others remained in

doors for fear of being caught by stray bullets.

The source disclosed that there was no security presence for over two hours the shooting lasted, while residents deserted the place on Sunday morning.

It was also gathered that Iceland and Greenland cult groups have been involved in supremacy battle over territory in the past months with over 12 people reported killed before the recent incident.

Contacted, spokesperson for Rivers State Police Command, Superintendent of Police (SP) Grace Iringe-Koko, who confirmed the incident said the state Commissioner of Police (CP), Okon Effiong, has deployed a tactical team to the affected area.

She said: "At about 7:30p.m., November 5, 2022, one Eze Noble 'm' of Ahoada town re-

ported at night time there was cult clash between Iceland cult group with Greenlanders rival cult at Abuja Housing estate, very close to Immigration Training School Ahoada.

"Consequent upon the fracas, his in-law known as Chukwujeku Kingsley 'm', 36 and Chibuike ThankGod 'm', 23 with three others, whose identities are still unknown were shot dead in the jungle where they take drugs together before the police arrived at the scene of the event.

"Three corpses were purportedly removed by their family members for burial, while ThankGod's corpse with others yet to be identified were deposited at Okpenden Morgue at Ula Ehuda Community. Preliminary investigation revealed that the killing was as a result of the clash."