

Rivers: One killed as cultists ravage Diobu, others

From Obinna Nwaoku,
Port Harcourt

A YET-TO-BE-IDENTIFIED

A man was killed by hoodlums on Sunday night, at Awkuzu/Lumbumber Street Mile 1 Diobu, Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

The State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Superintendent of Police (SP), Grace Iringe-Koko, who confirmed the incident, in a text message, said the deceased, who hailed from Akwa Ibom State, lived in Awkuzu Street.

An eyewitness said the man was ambushed by over 10 men and shot several times.

The Guardian gathered that relatives of the deceased were at the Divisional Police headquarters at Mile 1 to lodge a formal complaint on Monday morning.

The incident came on the heels of a clash by suspected cultists, who barricade the road in Diobu and robbed motorists on Sunday night.

It was reported that some hoodlums suspected to be cultists at about 9:0p.m. on

Sunday, mounted a roadblock at Uruala/Abakiliki junction, Mile 1 Diobu, Port Harcourt, and robbed passers-by and motorists for close to an hour without intervention from the police.

The hoodlums also invaded and robbed shops at Lumbumber Street in Mile 1, Diobu, the same night.

Recounting his ordeal, one of the victims, Tony Dike, narrated: "At Abakiliki/Urualla junction some hoodlums in black and black, stopped my car with heavy stones. They shot in the air and said I should come down from the car. They flogged and dealt me with machete cuts.

"They collected my phones and N180,000, which I came back with from work. When I saw that they wanted to collect the car, I had to put my car on reverse, and sped off."

Meanwhile, many residents have lamented the spate of armed robbery in the area since the cult war between different factions of Deebam cult group started.