

# Cult Violence Claims Three In Rivers

## • Ex-Commissioner's Home Bombed

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The intractable cult-related violence, which has been rocking Rivers State, worsened at the weekend when suspected cultists killed no fewer than three prominent persons in two local government areas of the state before bombing a house belonging to a commissioner in the Odili's administration.

The gun-wielding men, first struck at Rumuolumeni, a town that houses the headquarters of the Nigerian Navy in Rivers State, and killed two persons in a night raid, which forced the residents to flee.

After ransacking the town and killing their targets, the gunmen ~~reportedly fled with the corpses of~~ their victims through one of the creeks before the arrival of the police and other law enforcement agents.

In an attempt to ward off the attackers, the Rivers State Police Command deployed no fewer than 50 of its men in the area to keep and also solicited the assistance of the Navy in restoring order in the area.

Witnesses said the attack might not be unconnected with last Sunday's murder of the youth leader of the community, Golden Isi, by cultists loyal to one of the notorious militants in the state, who was reportedly slain last May.

The attackers are said to have retaliated the killing of Isi, who belongs to the camp of a popular Ijaw militant, who is being looked upon to end the raging crisis in the Niger Delta.

## Nine Die In Osun Auto Crash

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Early morning ghastly motor accident occurred yesterday at Naira and Kobo junction at Ikire along the Ife-Ibadan express way, Osun State, claiming nine lives and leaving others severely injured.

The accident involving a tanker trailer with registration number Oyo FA 939 AD and an Ekiti-bound 18-seater commercial bus, occurred at about 7 a.m.

According to witness account, the commercial bus with registration number Ekiti XA 475KLA was discharging some of its passengers at the junction when the trailer rammed into the scene claiming the lives of nine persons on the spot.

It was further learnt that one of the front tyres of the trailer burst on the high speed and the driver lost control before ramming his vehicle into the bus.

It took the sympathisers and rescue team including the police several minutes to salvage the victims from the scene.

The remains of the dead people have been evacuated and deposited at the Oluyoro Catholic Hospital in Apomu in Isokan Local Government Area of Osun State while the survivors were also receiving treatment in the state hospital.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr Joshua Olayemi, confirmed the incident.

He said the accident was caused by excessive speeding of the tanker driver.

He therefore cautioned motorists to shun the idea of over-speeding and avoid overtaking at dangerous places.