

# Ritualists Kill Five, Three Drown In Delta

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The fear of being killed by ritualists has forced farmers in Ibusa, Delta State, to abandon their farms and relocate to neighbouring villages.

So far, five women have been reported hacked to death with parts of their bodies removed by the assailants, although police confirmed the death of only two.

Investigations by *Daily Independent* revealed that those

killed in their farms or on farm roads were non-natives with only one indigene, as a victim.

Several farmers were said to have abandoned their farms for months for fear of being killed; it is also believed that some farmers have relocated to their village for this year's farming season.

It was equally understood that those who dare to go to farm were accompanied by armed men.

This newspaper learnt that youths of the town had before now protested against the ritual

killings when an indigene was murdered.

Traditional ruler of the community, Obi (Prof.) Luis Nwaboshi, had earlier led a delegation to the police to seek protection for women farmers.

However, the state police command on Tuesday said it is working closely with the community's vigilante group to monitor the situation.

According to the state's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Charles Muka, the force is yet to make any arrest in connection with the killings.

Similarly, the New Year celebrations turned out to be heart-rending for the families of three lads as they drowned at the Udu River in the Udu Council Area of Delta State.

Two of the victims were from the same parents and they were between the ages 10 and 12 years.

The first lad simply identified as Blessing Moscow and her elder sister, Gladys Moscow who hail from Orogun in Ughelli North Council, were living with their grandmother on Udu Road before the tragedy occurred.

The other victim, Joy Marwell, aged 21, a native of Okwagbe in Ughelli South Council, was visiting her mother before the incident occurred.