

5 Killed In Sporadic Shooting In Rivers

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No fewer than five persons were reportedly killed and many others injured when suspected cultists went on a shooting spree on the streets of Diobu, a densely populated area of Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, on the night of Monday, January 6, 2014.

LEADERSHIP gathered that the armed men, about six in number, were shooting as they passed the street, creating panic and leaving people in pools of their blood.

Casualties were also recorded in Azikiwe,

Adelabu, School Road and Chigbu, all in Mile 2 axis of the area.

It was gathered that the gunmen were fleeing from the site of a robbery operation when they clashed with policemen along Azikiwe Street at about 11:15 pm.

According to sources, the victims, especially those that died at one of the brothels located along Azikiwe Street, might have been hit by stray bullets, as the hoodlums shot sporadically.

A source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told LEADERSHIP that from the the

movement of the armed men, they appeared to be a fleeing robbery gang, but that there was no report or sign of prior armed robbery incident anywhere in the Diobu area that could have supported the theory.

He said, "That is why we believe they were cultists who just want to put fear in the heart of the people here. They could be a new group trying to assert their dominance in this area."

Efforts to get the police public relations officer in the state, DSP. Ahmad Muhammed, to comment on the incident were unsuccessful as he could not be reached on his mobile phone.