

Four killed in Rivers after ex-union chief's murder

RUMUOLUMENI, a Port Harcourt, Rivers State suburb, flared up in an orgy of violence yesterday, following Sunday night's killing of the former national vice chairman of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), Mr Golden Isi,

From Clarice Azuatalam,
Port Harcourt
by unknown gunmen.

Four persons were killed
in the violence.

By yesterday evening, the area had been deserted as residents fled to safety in

other parts of the city.

Isi, who was the President of Rumuolumeni Youth Council and an official of Aker Oil Services Ltd., was killed in his home in Minikpiti in Rumuolumeni, near Port

Harcourt.

Isi's neighbours said the heavily armed men took everybody by surprise, shooting sporadically in the air before attacking their target.

Some of his neighbours

said Isi's death could not be unconnected with his agitation for a better deal for the community's youths by companies operating in the area.

The sources noted that Isi had in recent times been hav-

ing a running battle with some influential persons who allegedly block other members of the community from benefiting from the activities of the companies.

Following Isi's killing,

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tension has gripped the Rumuolumeni community, which hosts more than 50 construction and oil servicing companies.

At Isi's residence, the bereaved family was busy receiving sympathisers all yesterday.

Sources at the Kala Police Station confirmed the inci-

dent.

Witnesses said that Isi was in his country home in Minikpiti, Rumuolumeni when the incident occurred. According to them, the heavily armed men sneaked into Minikpiti.

On arrival, they shot sporadically into the air to scare away people. They said that they were suspect-

ing that Isi's death might have something to do with his agitation for employment and empowerment for Rumuolumeni youths from some companies.

The community is known to be crisis-prone owing the presence of companies and the resultant agitation from several quarters. Isi's family could not be reached for comments.