

10 killed in Porth Harcourt violence

NO fewer than 10 persons were killed in renewed crises in parts of Port Harcourt, Rivers State yesterday.

The incident occurred, barely 24 hours after the shooting of two persons by unknown gunmen who terrorised parts of Port Harcourt on Monday. Two others reportedly died in the ensuing melee.

Seven of the 10 victims were killed in fresh skirmishes in Ogbogoro and Rnmuolumeni communities in Port Harcourt.

The three others were killed when unknown gunmen again stormed Town and Diobu near

From Clarice
Azuatalam, Port Harcourt
Port Harcourt last night.

The gunmen were said to have driven through Town-Azikwe Road-Port-Education-Nsukka and Iroabuchi streets in Diobu, near Port Harcourt, shooting into the air.

In the Ogbogoro community, two persons were killed and houses burnt in what many believed was an inter-cult war.

In Rmuolumeni, five persons were said to have died in renewed fighting in the early hours of yesterday.

Witnesses said that a woman with her two-

year-old baby and house-help were roasted to death when their house was torched by rampaging youths perceived to be on reprisal attack.

Three others were also killed, while several houses were set on fire. Many residents of the area were said to have fled while others stayed back in the belief that the attackers knew their targets and would not harm them.

Last month, crisis erupted in Rmuolumeni community following the killing of Mr Golden Isi, a youth leader and former official of the National Un-

ion of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG).

The fighting lasted for some weeks before the police restored peace especially in Nkpor village where the skirmish was intense.

It was not possible to establish the cause of the fighting.

The Police Commissioner, Mr Felix Ogbaudu, confirmed the crises in the two communities but did not give details.

The Police spokesperson, Mrs Ireju Barasua, in a statement assured residents of adequate security. The police, she said, had been moving

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about in the areas where the shootings and fighting occurred.

Barasua said Monday's shooting "was cult-related activity."