

Ruler, five others killed in Rivers

The paramount ruler of Ogbogoro, a suburb of Port Harcourt in Rivers State, Chief Richard Amadi, and five others were feared killed yesterday when suspected cultists stormed the venue of their meeting.

Among the others reportedly killed was a former

From Clarice Azuatalam, Port Harcourt

lecturer with the state College of Education, Dr Wali.

They were allegedly killed when the suspected cultists invaded the Ogbogoro council Chambers where elders and chiefs were meeting. Top on the agenda of the meeting, it

was learnt, was how to curb violent crimes in the community.

The chiefs and elders, it was gathered, had on Wednesday handed three suspected cultists in the community, including the leader of the gang that kidnapped a bank manager recently, to the Joint Task Force (JTF).

On the same day, they reportedly performed some traditional rites to sanitise the place of crime.

But other suspected cultists in the community, who had escaped arrest on that Wednesday, came out of their hiding and reportedly killed the chiefs.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Felix Ogbaudu, said he had heard of the incident. But he could not confirm if anybody was killed.

He said he was in a meeting with other service chiefs at the 2 Amphibious Brigade barracks, Bori Camp, Port Harcourt when news of the crisis in Ogbogoro came. Ogbaudu added that a JTF team was dispatched to the troubled community to restore order.

Ogbogoro is one of the communities in Ikwerre that is notorious for frequent violent clashes.

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peared in court on Wednesday.

"A private lawyer from the chambers of Rotimi Jacob rose and said that the DPP can't appear in the case. We are supposed to be working together. This counsel is just about three years old at the Bar.

"The EFCC has briefed the Presidency. The commission said the action of the boy was not authorized by them.

"I will make sure that the EFCC lawyer is de-briefed. Section 174 of the 1999 Constitution gives me power to take over any case and therefore do not need the permission of anybody to take over the case."

EFCC chairman Nuhu Ribadu could not be reached for comments yesterday. He is believed to be overseas.

Kalu notified me of a contempt charge against me at the high court. When the document was served on me, I wrote another letter to the EFCC again to give me the duplicate of Kalu's case. They refused again.

"The letter was received by one Onje Obe in EFCC office. They did not respond to my letters. Kalu issued a summons on me. They asked me to appear in court on the 5th of September. In that letter, they said if I do not appear in court, the consequence would be severe. That was why the DPP ap-