

# Six killed in Rivers community's cult clash

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Barely four days after four suspected cultists were killed in a clash in Rumuodogo community, Emohua Local Government of Rivers State, six others reportedly met the same fate yesterday in the area.

This followed the unresolved supremacy battle between suspected members of Degban and Islander cult groups.

Police spokesman Ahmad Mohammad, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), said the command was yet to confirm the casualty figure.

He said policemen were deployed in the crime scene to ensure peace in the area.

Mohammed said: "As I am talking to you, our men are on ground to calm the situation. We have arrested some suspects in connection with the clash. They include Eze Alu (24), Ikechi Bennert (30), Chidi Bennert (40) and Mike Eleru (38). The suspects are undergoing interrogation.

"For now, we are investigating the matter. We have not seen the body of any casualty. Until we see any, we cannot tell you how many were killed."

A youth leader in the area, who pleaded anonymity for security reasons, said some gunmen entered the community yesterday and killed six residents.

He said four people were killed on Sunday when the initial clash occurred.

The source, who claimed to have escaped attack while trying to ask his brother to run away, said the community was living in fear.

According to him, suspected cultists entered the community to aid the attack and destabilise the community.

He said: "I want to thank the police for their prompt response. But their presence did not prevent the gunmen from returning to the community through the bush to fight those they described as their enemies. To be frank, the community has been colonised by cultists."