



## Panic as community storms police command with monarch's corpse

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**I rate** indigenes of Barako community in Gokana local government area yesterday took the corpse of Chief Levi Korgbara to headquarters of the Rivers Police Command to protest alleged connivance of police officers in a communal crisis that has reportedly claimed eight persons.

Korgbara was killed by unknown gunmen on Friday on his way to honour the invitation of Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Kpor, for peace talks.

It was learnt the monarch, who was Chairman of Council of Traditional Rulers of Barako, was invited for peace talks with others chiefs from the warring community, Nwebiara.

Yet-to-be-identified attackers killed him on the way to the Police Divisional headquarters.

This killing sparked tension in the area with indigenes taking his remains to the police headquarters.



Some police officers at the command advised the protesting community to return to the divisional headquarters to obtain a police report and deposit the corpse in a mortuary.

The officers in charge of the Police Control Room assured the community investigations into the killing and other incidents in the area would commence soonest.

At the police headquarters, Kimanyieke Kesiop, one of the community leaders, said the community was not happy with the involvement of police in the situation.

Kesiop, who regretted that the chief would not have been killed if he was not invited by the police, said the community had lost over eight indigenes within last week to attacks from the neighbouring community.

When contacted, the Public Relations Officer of the Rivers State Police Command, Deputy Superintendent of Police Nnamdi Omoni described the death as mysterious.

Omoni said it was not possible that a police DPO would work with a community to killing people.

He added that the police officers in Kpor were not indigenes of the area.

According to him: "The DPO should not be blamed for the death. No DPO will invite people for a peace talk and send gunmen to kill the person. It is unprofessional; so it is inconceivable."

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