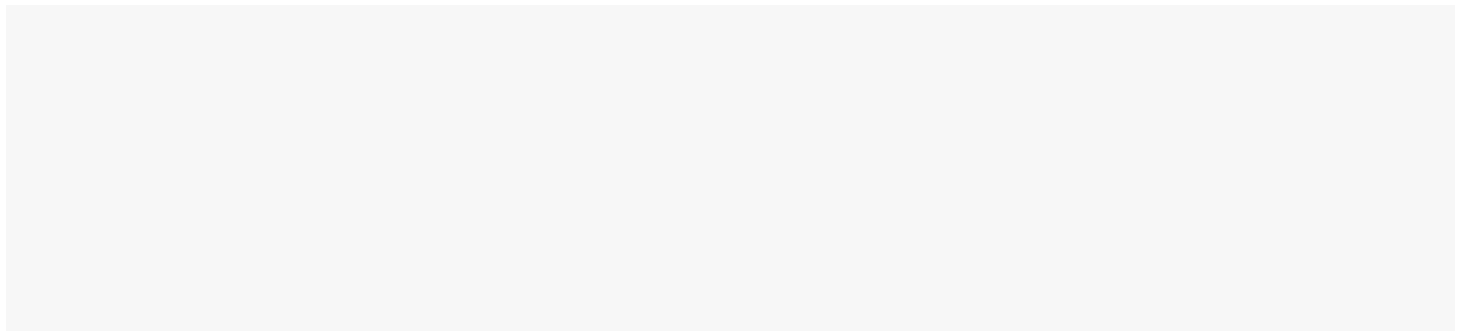


Police confirm killing of six in Rivers

December 13, 2019



Agency Reporter

The police in Rivers State have confirmed the killing of six persons during a violent protest by angry youths in Chokocho, Etche Local Government Area of the state.

The command's spokesman, DSP Nnamdi Omoni, confirmed the killing in a statement in Port Harcourt on Thursday.

He debunked media reports that 15 persons were killed during a deadly attack on commuters travelling through Etche communities to Owerri and beyond.

"The social media reports added that the angry youths also burnt a police station as well as engaged the army and police in a gun battle. Ordinarily, we would have ignored this baseless and unverifiable report that is intended to cause panic and tension in the state.

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"In order not to allow the public form a dangerous opinion, we thought it wise and expedient to correct this fake news," he stated.

Omoni said the command had deployed mobile policemen after receiving a distress call on December 7 following a blockage of Okomoko-Chokocho Bridge by protesters.

He said policemen, on arrival at the scene, dismantled the barricade and restored normalcy to the area.

“Thereafter, a team led by the Divisional Police Officer, CSP Joseph Anche, recovered five bodies in a river in the area.

“This discovery, however, sparked off another round of protest, which our men were able to contain.

“At the end of the day, six persons were killed contrary to the 15 deaths reported, while no police station was burnt and no commuter was attacked and killed as speculated,” he said.

The police spokesman added said that the Commissioner of Police, Mustapha Dandaura, has launched a full-scale investigation into the killings.



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