

Police kill cult-suspect in Rivers



The **Rivers State Police Command** said it has killed a suspected cultist and kidnapper, identified as Gbarani Bume (aka Pelele).

Bume was said to be a member of Iceland cult group, which has been terrorising Beree/Tabaa axis of Khana Local Government Area for a long time now. He was decimated during a gun duel between him and the police who stormed his safe nest on a tip-off.

A statement yesterday by the police spokesperson Grace Iringe-Koko said the deceased allegedly opened fire on sighting police operatives, resulting in a gun battle.

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It reads: "On November 15, operatives of the Command attached to Bori Division, acting on a tip-off, were mobilised to Luawii Community where Pelele and his gang were attempting to kidnap a site engineer.

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"On sighting the operatives, the hoodlums opened fire and a fierce crossfire ensued. Pelele was fatally wounded and his accomplices escaped with various degrees of injuries."

Some of the items recovered from the criminal hideout are one AK-47 rifle, two magazines, 10 rounds of live ammunition.

The police spokesperson said investigation has already begun while efforts are being intensified to apprehend fleeing gang members so they can be brought to justice.

“This operation demonstrates the command’s commitment to tackling and ensuring public safety,” she added.