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Mother, child killed as cult groups clash in Rivers

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A nursing mother and her child were left dead when two rival cult groups, the Icelanders and the Greenlanders, engaged in a bloody clash in Okoboh community in Abua/Odual Local Government Area of Rivers State, on Monday night.

The incident lasted less than 72 hours claiming no fewer than 15 persons' lives, including a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) during a clash between two rival cult groups, Dee-gbam and Dee-well at Omoku, in

Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of the state.

Okoboh community is the hometown of the member representing Ahoada-East/Abua/Odual Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives and deputy chairman of the House Committee on Diaspora, Honourable (Mrs) Betty Apiafi.

The two victims, the Nigerian Tribune learnt, were caught by stray bullets during the clash which started at about 8.00 p.m on Monday night, lasting till the early hours of Tuesday.

It was also gathered that while the Icelanders cult group had a camp in Okoboh community, the Greenlanders had their own camp in Owere-Owere community, both in Emughan clan of the area.

A community source said: "The clash was between the Icelanders and the Greenlanders, and they were in a kind of battle of supremacy. They were shooting till the early hours of this morning (Tuesday).

"The Icelanders cult group have their camp here in Okoboh, while the Greenlanders have their camp in Owere-Owere community. Owere-Owere is one of the biggest communities in Emughan clan, while Okoboh is the hometown of Betty Apiafi.

"The cult groups have been there for a period of time now may be for more than one year now.

"Two persons died; a woman leader in one of the political parties. It is not yet confirmed if it is the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Her baby also died as a result of stray bullet," the source said.

When contacted, Rivers Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Ahmadu Muhammed, confirmed the incident, but said he had not received any formal report on the matter.

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