

15 killed by gunmen in Rivers community

DAPO FALADE - PORT HARCOURT

FIFTEEN people lost their lives and several others were wounded when unknown gunmen opened fire at the Agbonchia Market in Eleme Local Government Area of Rivers State, on Saturday evening.

It was gathered that the

gunmen, said to be three and riding on a motorcycle, shot several times at a group of youths at the motorcycle wash section of the market, killing no fewer than 15 persons and injuring several others in the process.

According to one eye witness, "The people came into the market with a motor-

cycle and they were about three.

"We thought they came to wash their motorcycle, but before we knew it, they started shooting at the people who were washing their motorcycles. Immediately after shooting, they jumped on top of their bike and sped off.

"At the end, we saw not

less than 15 lifeless bodies on the ground and several others with gunshot injuries. We don't know the reason behind the ugly incident."

The Rivers State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Ahmad Muhammad who confirmed the shooting, however said only five persons died in the

incident.

He also revealed that one person had been arrested in connection with the attack, adding that preliminary investigation by the police revealed that the incident was an attack by a cult group.

"The assailants came on motorcycles, opened fired on a motorcycles wash point at Agbonchia, Eleme and fled. Five persons lost their lives.

"Preliminary investigation revealed the incident is related to cult activities. One suspect is right now undergoing interrogation, while investigation with a view of arresting the fleeing miscreants has commenced," he said.

