

Two suspected cultists killed in Ogoni

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A detachment of riot policemen drafted to quell the raging crisis in Bodo, an Ogoni community in Rivers State, has reportedly killed two cultists.

Three policemen were also reportedly injured during the exchange of gunfire between the policemen and one of the two cult groups in the community.

Our correspondent learnt that members of one of the groups, Dewell, surrendered on sighting the riot policemen deployed in the area.

But their rival, Debam, engaged the policemen in a fierce battle until three of their members were felled down by police bullets.

A source told our correspondent that the "boys that were killed were loyal to a politician in the state."

He added that the injured policemen would need divine intervention to survive because the bullets used by the cultists were always soaked in concoction before they were used.

Another source told our correspondent at about 6 pm on Thursday that traditional rulers from the 18 communities in the area had assembled in Bodo, to find a lasting solution to the crisis.

A police source said the headquarters was yet to be informed of the incident.

The Police Public Relation Officer, Mrs. Ireju Barasua, said she had not been briefed.

She promised to get in touch with the Divisional Police Officer of the area.

The Debam group had

on Monday allegedly beheaded a 46-year-old Monday Gbarami for allegedly taking a Dewell member to herbalists for spiritual power.

Rivers State Governor, Dr. Peter Odili, has vowed to dissolve any council whose chairman could not guarantee the safety of lives and property.

Police recover arms, ammunition from garden

Olalekan Adetayo

THE Criminal Investigation Department of the Lagos State Police Command is investigating the circumstances surrounding some arms and ammunition reportedly recovered from a flower garden in Lagos.

Our correspondent gathered on Thursday that the items were recovered on Sunday in the garden located on Afolabi Leshi Street, off Town Planning Way, Ilupeju.

The items include one "Express 64" long-range rifle with No. 064490; one pump action gun with No. 138994; 85 rounds of 22mm live ammunition and accessory.

The command's Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, a deputy superintendent of police, told our correspondent that a resident of the area who

saw the items where they were concealed reported the case at the Ilupeju Police Station.

Following the report, Ojajuni said the divisional police officer dispatched his men to the area at about 9pm to recover the items.

A resident of the area told our correspondent that there was fear in the neighbourhood that some hoodlums might have converted the garden to their den.

In a related development, policemen from Meiran Police Station have recovered a locally made pistol from two robbery suspects in the metropolis.

The policemen reportedly intercepted the suspects (names withheld) while on patrol on Ray Power Road, Alagbado.

Ojajuni said the suspects had made statements that were assisting the police in their investigation into the case.

Crime: Police set to register foreign domestic servants

Olalekan Adetayo

Ojajuni said at the station, the foreigners' ad-

lis that were traced to some domestic servants.