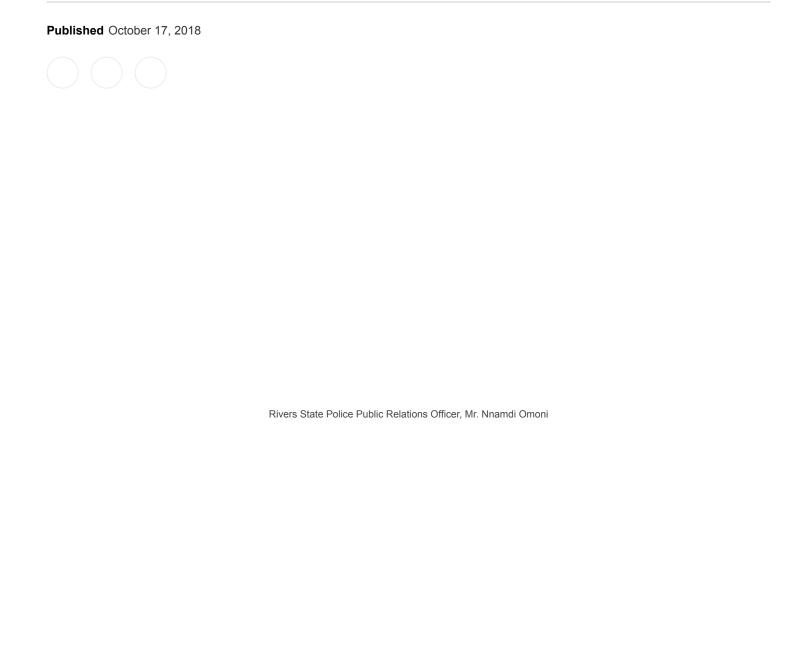
Suspected cultists kill monarch, two others in Rivers



Chukwudi Akasike, Port Harcourt

A group of unidentified gunmen suspected to be cultists have invaded Elibrada community in the Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State and killed the traditional ruler, Eze Augustine Amadionu.

Apart from the monarch, the invaders also murdered two other persons, including one Wayagbo Amadi when they struck at about noon on Monday.

Southern City News learnt that the two persons were beheaded after they were shot dead by their assailants.

While the monarch was said to have been murdered in his palace, the two other persons were killed within their community and close to their houses.

An indigene of the area, who did not want his name mentioned, said the hoodlums went for their targets and left immediately after the deed was done.

"The cult boys entered our community yesterday (Monday) around noon and killed our royal highness.

"The boys also killed one other person, Wayagbo. They removed his head.

"We also heard that they had killed somebody at Oduoha before they came into our community.

"At the moment, there is fear everywhere in the community.

"People are living in fear. Some are even out of the community, although the police have come, people are still living in fear," the source said.

Speaking on the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Nnamdi Omoni, confirmed the invasion of the community and the killing of three persons, including the paramount ruler of the area.

Omoni, who described the killings as unfortunate, said the security operatives had since been deployed in the area to restore law and order.

He, however, attributed the increased level of killings in the area to the regrouping of cult gangs from one community in Emohua.

The police spokesman urged members of the public, particularly those from the area, to make available to the police useful information that could lead to the arrest of the bandits.