

# Scores feared killed, houses razed in Rivers communities

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Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Mustapha Dandaura

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Scores of residents of Taaba and Okwali communities in the Khana Local Government Area of Rivers State were suspected to have been killed and several houses razed during violent attacks on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The attacks, it was gathered, started around 6pm on Tuesday after some unidentified youths raided the Taaba community and killed a yet-to-be-ascertained number of residents and another attack on the Okawli community on Wednesday in which scores were feared killed.

A resident of the Taaba community, who did not want his name in print, told *PUNCH Metro* that the attacks on both communities were suspected to have been carried out by cultists.

The resident said the assailants targeted their perceived enemies in both communities and shot indiscriminately when they invaded the villages.

He added that majority of the residents of both communities had fled for fear of being hit by stray bullets.

He said, “The attackers raided the Okwali community on Tuesday around 6pm, shooting indiscriminately into the air and at their targets, and also burning houses.

“This morning (Wednesday), they also attacked the Taaba community, which is the neighbouring community to Okwali, shooting and killing several persons.

“I cannot tell the number of corpses on the ground because I couldn’t count, but they were many.”

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Nnamdi Omoni, confirmed the incident, adding that the command had deployed its men in the affected communities to restore order.

“Yes, I can confirm the incident; the command has swiftly deployed its men in the area to restore peace and order,” Omoni stated.