

# Community deserted as soldiers allegedly raid Rivers village

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Rivers CP, Mukan

## • *Cult clash claims two*

**Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt**

Residents of Okoma in the Ahoada East Local Government Area of Rivers State have deserted their community following a raid by soldiers over alleged illegal bunkering activities in the area.

But a community source told our correspondent that the raid might not be unconnected to the killing of two soldiers there by unidentified gunmen earlier this month.

The source said the soldiers came in four patrol vans in search of the hoodlums, who killed their colleagues, while also hunting for suspected oil thieves, even as he alleged that some of the soldiers were being bribed by hoodlums involved in the illicit activities, making it difficult to apprehend them.

Another source said some buildings allegedly being used for criminal activities were razed by soldiers during the raid.

The source added that some residents had fled their homes, while those who were still there had been living in fear for over a month due to the presence of the military men.

He said, “You know the level of illegal bunkering in that area is high. That is why the soldiers were guarding that oil installation. But these bad boys came and attack them. In the shootout, two soldiers died and the boys took their rifles.”

Efforts to reach the spokesman for the 6 Division, Nigerian Army in Port Harcourt, Charles Ekeocha, were unsuccessful as he neither take calls put across to his mobile phone nor respond to a text message sent to him by our correspondent as of the time of filing this report.

In a separate development, two persons were feared dead in the Kpong community, Khana Local Government Area of the state following a clash between two rival cults.

The incident, it was gathered occurred around 5am on Sunday, when the two groups were engaged in a supremacy battle.

“In the morning, some of us ran because they said two persons died. They were cultists, but I don’t know the groups,” a source stated.

When contacted, the spokesman for the state police command, Nnamdi Omoni, said he would find out and get back to our correspondent, but did not respond to subsequent calls put across to his mobile phone.

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