

Suspected cultists kill six in Rivers communities

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

GUNMEN suspected to be cultists invaded two communities in the Ahoada East and Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State on Wednesday, killing six persons.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the rampaging cultists first killed one person in the Abarikpo community, Ahoada East, while five persons were killed in the Odieroke-Ubie community, Ahoada West.

This came barely 48 hours after four persons were killed in a fresh cult clash in the Emuoha area of the state.

The latest incident, which was said to have occurred around 4am, sent panic across the communities as some residents fled.

The Public Relations Officer of Akoh Youth Congress, Ahoada East Local Government Area, Ekeakita Chinem, confirmed the incident to journalists on Wednesday.



•Rivers CP, Polycarp Emeka

Chinem said the gunmen rode on motorcycles while searching for their targets.

He said, "Around 4am this morning, a group of cult boys who reside in the neighbouring community came to the

Abarikpo community, Ahoada East.

"They were searching for some persons. One Aburi Edi was found in his house sleeping. They shot him in the stomach.

"They left the scene for their

hideout on motorcycles. In the Odieroke Ubie community, Ahoada West, five youths were killed on Tuesday night."

The youth leader alleged that the miscreants who reside in the forest had earlier demanded money from the communities, but they refused to pay.

He added, "They said the Odieroke community should pay N1m to these boys living in the bush. This community does not have that kind of money.

"Most people in the community were not even at home. Even the five youths were returning from the farm when they met their untimely death. The hoodlums came on three motorcycles."

He called on the new state Commissioner of Police, Polycarp Emeka, to rise to the occasion and ensure that the culprits were brought to book.

He added, "This place these boys are hiding is not too big. So, I don't know why the security operatives are pampering them.

"I, therefore, plead with the Inspector General of Police,

the state CP, and the Area Commanders of these two LGAs to help us tackle this menace."

Manager in court for defrauding employer of N40m

Naomi Chima

A sales manager, Kalapalliwar Parag, was on Tuesday arraigned before a Magistrates' Court sitting in Yaba, Lagos for allegedly defrauding his employer, GBGL Pharmacy Limited, of N40m.

Parag was arraigned by the Lagos State Police Command before Magistrate O. Y. Odufope along with his alleged girlfriend, Blessing Anthony, on three counts of fraudulent conversion, stealing and an attempt to prevent the course of justice.

According to the prosecutor, Haruna Magaji, the 29-year-old defendant had wanted to escape from police custody while the investigation was ongoing at the airport in Asaba, Delta State capital, where he was apprehended.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed

the incident.

"Yes, I can confirm that six persons were killed. An

investigation is ongoing to apprehend the suspects," she said.

the company located at No. 4A, Redemption Crescent, Gbagada, Lagos State.

Magaji stated that the offences were contrary to and punishable under Sections 314, 287, 97(1) (3) and 328(1) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State of Nigeria, 2015.

The charge read in part, "That you, Kalapalliwar Parag, on August 17, 2022, at No.

4A, Redemption Crescent, Gbagada, Lagos, in the Lagos Magisterial District, being in the service of GBGL Pharmacy Limited as a Sales Manager, did intentionally, fraudulently converted N40m being proceeds of sales of pharmaceutical products, property of GBGL Pharmacy Limited, to your use and thereby committed an offence

punishable under Section 314 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State of Nigeria, 2015."

The defendants, however, pleaded not guilty to the offences.

The Magistrate, Adefope, admitted them to bail in the sum of N5m with two responsible sureties.

She adjourned the case till August 4, 2023.

Rivers police rescue six pregnant girls from suspected traffickers

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

THE Rivers State Police Command said its operatives busted a suspected baby factory and rescued six pregnant girls near Choba in the Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of the state.

