

# Rivers cult war claims another vigilante

6th June 2025



SP Grace Iringe-Koko, Spokesperson for the Rivers State Police Command

| By Dennis Naku

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The cult war ravaging the Diobu area of Port Harcourt, the capital of Rivers State, took a different dimension on Wednesday night, as a member of a vigilante group in the area simply identified as Sango was killed at Echue in the Mile 2 area of the state.

It was gathered that a faction of the Deygbam cult group had ambushed the vigilante at about 10 pm and shot him dead.

A source who pleaded anonymity for fear of being identified however told our correspondent on Thursday that the deceased was suspected to be a member of one of the factions of the cult gang that took his life, following a lingering supremacy battle in the densely populated area of the metropolis.

The source said, “You know that the cult war amongst the Degbam cult members in Diobu has been on for over three weeks now and Sango is said (alleged) to be posing as a vigilante in the morning and cultist at night.

“So, probably the rival group knew this and came after him because he had been a target”.

*PUNCH Metro* reports that the body of the vigilante has been removed though it could not be ascertained if it was the police that evacuated his remains.

The incident caused panic in the area as residents remained indoors while passers-by scampered for safety.



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Recall that last Sunday, a taxi driver identified as Barnabas was shot dead by suspected cultists in front of his house on Echue Street, Mile 2 Diobu.

Also, on penultimate Friday, suspected Deygbam cult group members took control of the Education Bus Stop area of Ikwerre Road where they engaged in a gun battle in their continued quest for supremacy.

Similarly, a member of one of the Deygbam cult identified as Ishie was killed at the Railway area of Mile 1 Diobu of Port Harcourt last month.

When contacted by *PUNCH Metro*, the spokesperson for the state police command, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the incident, saying an investigation was ongoing.

She however said Sango was removed as a vigilante by the Diobu local security outfit after they found out his link with a cult group.

The state police image maker stated, “Yes, I can confirm the incident. It is cult related. He (Sango) was no longer a vigilante because they found out he was a member of one of the cult groups. That was when he was removed.

“Investigation is ongoing. Meanwhile, the command is on top of the game. The Commissioner of Police has already deployed a tactical team to ensure the arrest of the cultists who have been terrorising that area of Diobu and its environs.