

Residents desert Rivers community as cult war rages

From **Tony John**, Port Harcourt

RESIDENTS of Ubima in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State have started deserting the community over cult clashes.

Meanwhile, another cult war has claimed two lives in Tai Local Government Area of the state. Scores were also reportedly wounded in the incident.

In Ubima, a man simply identified as Solomon was murdered in a renewed cult clash between Dewell and Axelander.

A fortnight ago, at least three persons were killed in Ubima after a rival cult leader was beaten to death.

There was sporadic shooting in Gio and Kporghor villages in Tai council, following an invasion by gunmen suspected to come from Wakama community in Okrika Local Government Area.

It was gathered that the attackers beheaded a young man from Kira, whom Wakama people allegedly accused of harbouring some persons they claimed had been attacking their community.

□ Movement for Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP) □ has, however condemned the attacks on Ogoni people in "yet another unprovoked invasion of Kporghor and Gio villages in Tai Local Government Council, occasioning killing of innocent citizens and wanton destruction of remnants of houses in the villages."

The group alleged: "The invasion was confirmed to have been carried by a combined and sophisticatedly armed attackers from neighbouring Okrika communities, especially Wakama."