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Soldiers kill 8 cultists in Rivers

— 14th June 2016

• Rescue 5 kidnap victims

From Tony John, Port Harcourt

Eight persons suspected to be members of the Icelande cult group, were on Sunday, shot dead in Obelle community in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State by the military during a shoot-out.
Also, five persons, who were reportedly abducted by the cult group at the weekend, in Elele, Ikwerre Local Government Area of the state have regained their freedom.

Daily Sun gathered that the Army recorded the feat Sunday, after trailing the bandits to their camp in Obelle community, following the spate of cult killings and other criminal activities, threatening the peace of the community and its environs.
According to a source from the community, gun duel ensued when the cultists, who fled the neighbouring Ibaa community and camped in Obelle, opened fire on sighting the soldiers.
It was further gathered that the soldiers reinforced and pursued the gunmen under heavy firing into the Obelle-Elele forest, killing eight of the suspects.
The source said that when the cultists lost their grips on the community, five out of the six hostages escaped from their den.
The kidnap victims, it was gathered, were ambushed by suspected cultists in Port Harcourt, who whisked away six persons into a forest in the area.
Meanwhile, the 2 Brigade, Nigerian Army, Port Harcourt, has destroyed three camps, belonging to suspected cultists in Ibaa and Obelle communities in Emohua Local Government Area.
This was contained in a statement issued yesterday, by the Assistant Director, Army Public Relations, 2 Brigade of Nigerian Army, Captain Eli Lazarus, saying that five persons were killed in the operation.
Lazarus said the operation followed a tip off on the hideout of the cultists in the communities. He said two pump action rifles and 26 phones were recovered during the raid.
He assured that the current operation against cultists and other criminals in the State, would be sustained to safeguard lives and property of members of the public.

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