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Cultists kill 2, behead 1 in Rivers

From **Tony John**, Port
Harcourt

GUNMEN suspected to be cultists at the weekend shot dead two persons and beheaded another victim in Mgbuitawo, Emohua community, in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Daily Sun gathered that one of the victims was a leader of a cult gang terrorising the area. He was shot dead alongside one Daddy-Boy Isaiah, who was in company with the suspected target when the hoodlums opened fire on them.

A source within the community who confirmed the killings to *Daily Sun* yesterday said the group stormed the village, shot indiscriminately in the area before killing the two and later beheaded one Nnam-Gift Uchendu.

Spokesman for the Rivers State Police Command, DSP Nnamdi Omoni, confirmed the incident to journalists at the weekend, with the assurance that the command has deployed men to calm the situation and investigate the killing.

In a related development, residents of Rumuolumeni community in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of the state have cried out over threat to peace by suspected cultists, who are battling for supremacy in the community.

Also, residents and natives of Rumuolumeni and neighbouring communities have decried incessant criminal activities, including looting of property, by cultists.

Although no death had been recorded at the time of filing the report, residents claimed that no fewer than 15 people sustained machete cuts.

Community sources alleged that in the killing of the supposed cult leader, the hoodlums wielded weapons and patrolled the area after random shooting, forcing inhabitants of the community to close their shops and remain indoors in fear.

According to a native, Chigbu Christian, who witnessed the shooting, the tension forced many youths to flee their homes for fear of reprisal attack by rival cult groups. They alleged that despite several calls put to police at the divisional headquarters in the community, no policemen showed up, just as they called on security agencies to come to their aid to save life and property.

A senior police officer at the station, who pleaded not to be named in print, said they were not informed about the incident, but urged the public to alert the police of any suspicious activity in their areas for prompt intervention.

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