

3 killed in Rivers cult war ²

From **Tony John**, Port Harcourt

THREE suspected cultists were killed in a gun duel in a supremacy battle between suspected Greenland and Iceland cult groups in the East-West road section of Ahoada East Local Government Area, Rivers State.

A source in the community, who pleaded anonymity, disclosed that the shooting, which caused serious panic, stopped when the Ahoada East Police Division, led by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), arrived at the scene as the hoodlums fled.

The source said but for the timely arrival of the DPO and his men, the cultists would have overrun the town on Saturday night. Daily Sun gathered that there was increased

police patrols in and around Ahoada East yesterday.

The gun fire, according to sources, increased tension in Ahoada East, as people around the troubled areas scampered for safety, while shop owners hurriedly closed business for the day.

The state Police Command has confirmed the incident through its spokesperson, Grace Iringe-Koko, a Superintendent of Police (SP). The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) said the shooting was as a result of the rivalry between two cult groups.

Iringe-Koko identified the two dead cultists as Mr. Azhinibudu Biko, a.k.a Yankee, aged 35 years, and Gboka Odoi, aged 37 years. She added that the police had increased operations to arrest the fleeing members of the gang.