

Gunmen on rampage, kill 2 in Rivers

•Youths seek police intervention

From **Tony John**, Port Harcourt

GUNMEN suspected to be cultists yesterday, killed two persons at Odiokwu junction in Ula-Ehuda, in Igbu Akoh-Kingdon, Ahoada East Local Government Area of Rivers State.

This latest development occurred barely 24 hours after five persons were reportedly killed in Edeoha Community, Upata kingdom in the same LGA.

The Public Relations Officer of Igbu-Akoh kingdom, Hector Chinem, in an interview with journalists yesterday, disclosed that on Sunday night, natives observed movement of some persons dressed in coverall and military rain wear, only for natives to wake up yesterday morning to see dead bodies of two youths riddled with bullets. PO

The spokesperson for the Igbu-Akoh kingdom regretted that the killing came barely 24 hours after five persons were killed in a neighbouring community.

Mr. Chinem called on Rivers State Commissioner of Police, CP Mohammed Mustapha, to as a matter of urgency, strengthen security of the area, as suspected cultists have invaded the communities.

Mr Chinem equally pleaded with youths of the LGA to lay down their arms and allow peace to reign.

He said: "As at Monday afternoon, reports available to us indicate that there is heightened tension in the LGA as some natives have started fleeing the community."

The state Police Command is yet to confirm the killings.

Meanwhile, the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Grace Iringe-Koko, had on Sunday, confirmed the killing in Edeoha community, saying it was cult-related.