

Soldiers kill five cultists during gunfight

By: Emmanuel Masha January 5, 2017

Five suspected cultists were shot dead by the men of the Nigerian Army during a gunfight in the early hours of yesterday in Omoku, the headquarters of Ogba/Egbema/ Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State.

For more than a year now, soldiers have been patrolling communities in the local government, tracking down suspected cultists who also carry out kidnapping for ransom, as well as robberies.

According to community sources, the Army responded to a distress call in Omoku on Tuesday night after the cultists stormed the town shooting sporadically and killed two young men.

On that Tuesday, the suspected cultists, after invading Omoku, killed about 10 persons, including a former Community Development Committee Chairman (CDC) of Omoku, Mr. Zubuikie Toby Oburu and his teenage son.

One of the sources said that the cultists, including the members of the Greenlanders and Igbelands were battling it out among themselves in a battle of supremacy, but hardly distinguished non-cultists when they started shooting.

The General Officer Commanding (GCO) 6 Division, Port Harcourt, Major General Kasimu Abdulkarim, who confirmed the Wednesday killing of the five suspected cultists, disclosed that five AK 47 rifles had so far been recovered from hoodlums in the local government between January 1 and yesterday.

Abdulkarim noted that the Army had recorded appreciable success in its bid to rid the local government of cultists and brigands terrorising the people. He said: "We have recovered a total of five AK47 rifles from cultists in the area since January 1st."

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