

Cult Clash: Council Boss Seeks Soldiers Deployment

Chairman, Emuoha Local Government of Rivers State, Mr Emeka Woke, has called for deployment of soldiers to the area, following the cult clash between Degbam and Dewell groups where no fewer than six lives were lost.

Woke, who denied any political connotation to the clash, said trouble started when the death of a man in the community was allegedly traced to the Dewell cult group.

According to him, on July 10, 2006, one Nwikeza Ogbuka, a member of Degbam cult group was shot by some people who were alleged to be members of Dewell. The Degbam group then alleged that the leader of the Dewell group in the community was one Dike Okrika and warned of reprisals.

On July 22, 2006, he said the Degbam members organised themselves and attacked the Okrika at 1a.m., and killed two of his sons, Expensive Okrika and Junior Okrika, and an unnamed "Igbo Mechanic" who live in the compound.

A suspected member of Dewell, Nna Terry Enyindah was also killed while the Degbam

RIVERS

*From Ahamefula Ogbu
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group were taking the corpses to the mortuary.

Woke said while the people of the area were meeting at Rumuelenwo town hall, a leader of the Dewell group mobilised and attacked the meeting, where the youth leader of Rumuelenwo, Mr Saddam Kelechi Ibero was shot dead.

Others killed in the retaliatory attack were Chituru Ibero, younger brother to Saddam and one Chukwuka Igwe, alias Plato.

He said Emuoha was accessible through the rivers which made attacks very easy.

He said the community's threat to place curses on cultists were rebuffed and called for immediate military intervention.

Also speaking at the briefing, father of the slain Okrika brothers, Sunday Okrika, said he was in the house when the attackers came but he managed to escape.