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Cultists, again, kill 6 in Rivers

Bolaji Ogundele, Port Harcourt - 07.09.2007

NO fewer than six people, including three chiefs of the community, were reportedly killed by a yet-to-be identified gang in Ogbogoro, Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State, on Thursday.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the hoodlums attacked the community's council chambers where chiefs and elders of the community were holding a meeting, killing the community's paramount ruler, Chief Richard Amadi, a former College of Education lecturer, one Dr. Wali, and four others.

According to a community source, chiefs and elders of the community had handed three suspected cultists in the community, including the leader of the gang that kidnapped a banker recently, over to the Joint Task Force on Wednesday and had vowed to rid the community of known criminals.

But other suspected cultists in the community, who had escaped arrest on Wednesday, came out of their hideout on Wednesday to kill the chiefs who had vowed to root them from the community.

When contacted, the state's Commissioner of Police, Mr. Felix Ogbaudu, said on the phone that he had heard of the incident, but had not been able to confirm if anybody was killed.

He said he was in a meeting with other security chiefs at the 2 Amphibious Brigade barracks when news filtered in about the crisis in Ogogboro, adding that a team from the Joint Task Force (JTF) was immediately dispatched to the community to restore order.