

# DSP, four others killed as cult groups clash in Rivers

....Two militants die in gun duel with Navy

By Jimitota Onoyume

**P**ORT-HARCURT—IT was a bloody Wednesday for the River State Police Command following the death of five people including a Deputy Superintendent of Police at Emohia Local Government Area. The men were reportedly killed when rival cult groups clashed.

On the same day men of the Nigerian Navy engaged some militants in a gun duel on the high sea around Cow Vorn Channel leaving two of the militants dead while two were arrested.

Naval authorities in Port Harcourt said they were going to brief the press on the event.

River State Police Commissioner Mrs. Baresua Ireju confirmed the killing of the policemen saying details of the incident were sketchy.

She said preliminary investigation showed there was a rival cult clash in the area which led to the loss of lives. Community sources said unknown gun men opened fire on the DSP, adding that the

rival cult clash that night left about five others dead and scores injured.

Meanwhile, a non governmental organization has expressed worries over the rising spate of violence and killings in the local government. In a statement, the women group, Kebnetkache Women Development and Resource Centre said the frequency in the rate of violence was impacting very negatively on "the women psychologically, politically, socially and economically. The economic activities of women are particularly affected thereby depriving them of access to income". Appealing to the youths to embrace the culture of peace and shun violence and arms proliferation, the statement signed by the duo of Ms Emem Okon and Ms Helen Chuku also urged the federal government to address the problems of the Niger Delta region for enduring peace to reign in the area.

Meanwhile, a top security source said the corpses of the militants had been deposited at the morgue in the Military hospital in Port Harcourt.