

3 Suspected assassins kill 5 in Rivers community

BY JIMITOTA ONOYUME

PORT HARCOURT — AT least five persons were allegedly shot dead in Ogbogu community, Ogba Egbema Ndoni Local Government Area, Wednesday night by suspected assassins.

Details of the killings were still hazy at press time. Community sources, however, told

Vanguard that the assassins also detonated explosives at the residence of the President General, Egi Peoples Assembly, Chief Oris Onyiri.

The incident which reportedly damaged a portion of one of the buildings in the compound also claimed a life.

A text message to the mobile phone of the state Police Commissioner, Mr Tunde

Ogunsakin, for comments on the ugly development had not been responded to at press time.

The state Police PRO, DSP Ahmad Muhammad, and his assistant, Grace Koko had also not responded to the text messages to their mobile phones for comments on the situation.

Vanguard gathered that

the gunmen also reportedly shot three persons in their legs before fleeing the area. One of those killed, a source said, was from Akabuka, a community close to Ogbogu.

"They threw what sounded like grenade at the residence of Chief Onyiri. One of his relatives died from the incident," a community source said.

An eyewitness, who did not want his name mentioned, said security men engaged the killers in a gun battle, killing one of them while others escaped.

Nobody could say the motives of the killers but a youth leader said it would not be unconnected with the tension in the area over who should represent the oil rich area during negotiations with multinational oil companies.

"You know oil companies are doing business here. And some persons feel short changed by those from the community representing the people before the oil companies. This area has been enmeshed in one form of crisis or the other over such issue," the source said.

Vanguard gathered that at least six persons have been killed in oil rich communities in the local government within the last one year in cult related crisis.



An electric pole fell on a tricycle (Keke Marwa) at Jakande Estate gate on Ikotun-Isolo Road, Lagos, yesterday. PHOTO: NAN.