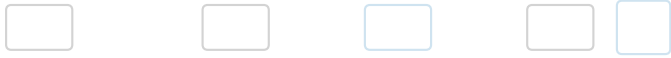


10 killed, as gunmen invade Rivers communities

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By Jimitota Onoyume & Davies Iheamnachor

PORT HARCOURT—Members of Greenlanders, a cult group, reportedly invaded Ibaa community, Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State, Sunday, killing six people and injuring many others. Meanwhile, about four persons were reportedly shot dead in Odhuaje community, Ahoada East Local Government Area of the state by unknown gunmen yesterday. On the Ibaa community invasion, *Vanguard* learned that it was a reprisal attack against its rival cult group, The Icelanders.

Those reportedly killed during the shootout were Mr. Prince Nyenke, Mr. Dirinna, Mr. Kpomasiruchi, Mr. ThankGod Obisike and two others. A community source, who did not want his name in print, disclosed that the gunmen laid siege to the community and operated freely without interruption from any quarter. The source, who was privy to the development, noted that the strange visitors were moving from house to house in search of the members of The Icelanders.

It also said that the Greenlanders had chased the Icelanders out of their camp in the community and taken over the place. *Vanguard* also gathered that the mini-police post in the community has been closed since the shootout. Meanwhile, the Caretaker Chairman of Emohua council, Mr. John Wokoma, who visited the affected people, described the situation as pathetic, promising to provide adequate security for the people.

When contacted, the Public Relations Officer of the Rivers State Police Command, DSP Ahmad Muhammad, confirmed that it was a cult clash for supremacy. Muhammad noted that three casualties were recorded, but disclosed that peace has returned. He said: "It was a supremacy clash between Deygbam and Islander cult groups, which left three fatal casualties. Normalcy has since been restored due to police intervention." But he denied knowledge of the Odhuaje community attack.