

## 4 cultists die in gun battle with Rivers Police

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By Jimitota Onoyume

**PORT HARCOURT—**Four notorious cultists in Rivers State were shot dead by policemen, yesterday. The state Police Public Relations Officer, Ahmad Muhammad, who disclosed this to newsmen in Port Harcourt, said policemen engaged the cultists in a fierce gun battle in Ogbakiri, Emohua Local Government Area of the state, adding that three of the cultists died on the spot, while one passed on later at the hospital from bullet wounds.

Muhammad said the cultist, who died later at the hospital, confessed before he passed on that the group was behind the weekend's killings of about 27 persons in Aluu, Isiokpo and Rumuji community, where they attempted to attack the Rumuji Police Station.

He said: "The cultists came from the bushes to attack our SARS annex office at Ogbakiri Junction. Our men repelled the attack. Four of them were killed," adding that police had beefed up security around all its formations in the state.

On Moscow Road, Port Harcourt, where the Police headquarters is, one of the lanes was closed to motorists. Muhammad added that dynamites and other dangerous weapons were among items recovered from the hoodlums shot dead.

He said: "We recovered large quantities of dynamites. The hoodlum that made it to the hospital said he was among those that attacked Isiokpo and other areas of Aluu communities weekend. "Their fleeing gang members certainly escaped with their riffles when they saw their members gunned down."