

## Man burnt alive, as cultists clash in Rivers

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By Davies Iheamnachor

**PORT HARCOURT**—A young man, identified simply as Ibe, was yesterday morning burnt to death in a clash between two cult groups at Alakahia community, Ohio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

It was gathered that members of a cult invaded Alakahia, one of the communities hosting University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, UPTH, in search of their rivals, where they caught Ibe.

### 3 more killed in raging Benin cult war

Ibe was reportedly set ablaze and burnt to death, while the rival cult group members watched and people scampered for safety.

A source said Ibe had been terrorising the area over a chieftaincy tussle after the death of his father, who was the paramount ruler of the community.

It was also disclosed that the cult boys who killed Ibe held the area hostage after killing their target, until some Police officers arrived the area after a distress call.

A source in the community, who gave his name simply as Emmanuel, told *Vanguard* that Ibe's cult members, on hearing the development, stormed the area and engaged their opponents, who were already on the ground, in gun battle.

Emmanuel further alleged that some Police officers, who arrived the area to arrest the situation, were scared away from the community following the shooting spree.

When contacted at press time, the Public Relations Officers of the Rivers State Police Command, DSP. Nnamd Omoni, confirmed the incident, but added that he has not been fully briefed.

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