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Gunmen kill vigilante member, abduct septuagenarian in Rivers

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PORT HARCOURT:
There is palpable
tension in Akabta
Community, Ogba/
Egbema/Ndoni Local
Government Area of Rivers
State following the killing
of a vigilante member in
the area.

The unidentified gunmen
that stormed the
community had also,
during their operation,
kidnapped a
septuagenarian, Chief
Shedrack Orikoha.

It was gathered that the
masked killers invaded the
community in the early
hours on Friday and
murdered one Ewor
Orikoha in the community.

It was learned that
members of a cult group,
on reprisal, had invaded
Akabta under heavy
gunfire and carried out the
attack.

It was further gathered
that the killers, who
arrived the community
about 12 am had made
straight to the home of
Ewor, member of the
ONELGA Security
Planning and Advisory
Committee, held him
hostage for minutes before
shooting him dead.

A source in the community,
a relative of the victim
(names withheld for
security reasons) told
Saturday Vanguard that
killers were more than
seven.

The source narrated that
the killers first of all killed
Ewor, the vigilante
member, left the
compound and returned
minutes later to abduct
Chief Shedrack.

He said: "Last night, some
cult boys came into our
community. They killed
one of my uncles, Ewor.
He was a member of
OSPAC.

"They met him at his
house late in the night. He
came back home and he
never knew that the boys
were around. Immediately
he opened his door, they
followed him in."

The source disclosed that
the hoodlums had invaded
the family of Orikoha
some minutes after the
killing and abducted a
government recognized
Chief, Orikoha.

He said: "As I speak, my
people are living in fear.
We need government to
give security attention.
They have not killed
somebody in this
community before.

"The boys came back to
the compound again after
they killed Ewor. They
kidnapped our Chief. He
is a titled chief, Chief
Shedrack Orikoha. Till
now, we don't know his
whereabouts."

However, at press time, the
spokesperson of the Rivers
State Police Command,
Grace Iringe-Koko, a
Superintendent of Police,
could not confirm the
development.