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affected communities and pro-

youth president

in the affected areas.

# Death of vigilante member: Rivers' family fingers his colleagues

• *Call for investigation by police*

**RIVERS... THE TREASURE  
BASE OF THE NATION**

By Daniel Abia

**P**ORT-HARCOURT—THE family of a 32-year-old member of Dioubu Vigilante, Uche Orukwo, gruesomely murdered in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, has accused his colleagues of orchestrating the murder, calling on the police to investigate the circumstances that led to his death.

Gunmen suspected to be cultists shot and killed Orukwo last Saturday night after vigilantes in the company of police officers stormed the cultists' hideout at Obidianso waterfront, Mile 2 Diobu, Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

**His co-workers, not cultists, killed him**

—Pastor Orukwo, father

Speaking for the family, the father of the deceased, Pastor Moses Orukwo, said, contrary to the earlier narrative about the death of his son, an internal conspiracy within the ranks of the local security outfit occa-



• Uche Orukwo

sioned the death of the young man.

"We were told that cultists

killed him, but we found out that it is not true. The information available to me is that his co-workers killed him. The team that he leads killed him because some people envy his position—the second-in-command position.

"Even the commander confirmed they envied his position. Others, too, confirmed that his team members envied his position and that he came and got promoted to that position.

"One team member that we asked what happened, could not explain what happened, so, from there, we demanded that we hear from the other three members.

**Gun, money, and phone left intact after killing him**

"We heard that somebody called him (Uche) to go for that operation, and who was that person that called him to go? Even after they killed him, his gun and his money were in his pocket, and his phone was still with him. If an opponent had killed him, they would have taken his gun, his money, and his phone.

"Also, records proved that he did not want to go anywhere that day, he recorded it on the phone, and we heard everything, and he argued with them that he would not go anywhere,

but because he signed for the job, he had to obey his leader without knowing what they had in mind. This is a conspiracy.

"It was not cultists that killed him, because when they got to the waterfront and the entire street to search for the cultists, they did not see anybody in that area. It was on their way back that they shot and killed him, it was his colleagues."

**We want an immediate probe by the police**

The aggrieved father called on the Commissioner of Police, CP Olatunji Disu, to order an immediate investigation into the circumstances surrounding the vigilante's death, and invite the commander of the vigilante group and his team members, who went with the deceased to the operation for questioning.

"I am calling on the Commissioner of Police in Rivers State, he knew him personally, and he has worked with them, to look into this matter and invite his team. Even the commander would produce most of them assigned to him so they would give the correct information of what led to the death because they are the only people who can tell us what they know, the four of them."