

Police carrying masked gunmen.

Police arrest 11 suspects as cultists kill 9 in Benue

From **Scholastica Hlr,**
Makurdi

THE Benue State Police Command has arrested 11 suspects in connection with Monday's cult-related killings in Makurdi.

Nine persons were reportedly killed in the Benue State capital after suspected cultists went on a rampage in the early hours of the day.

The Chairman of Makurdi Local Government, Joseph Keffi, con-

firmed the incident to journalists on the phone, saying the killings occurred between 2 a.m. and 2:30 a.m. on Aliade Street, Makurdi.

Keffi condemned the incident, describing it as ugly and pathetic.

The council chairman explained that, according to reports made available to him, some young men arrived on motorcycles, entered a compound where four persons were sleeping, called them out and shot them.

He added that four others who came out after hearing gunshots were also killed.

"It is quite ugly and pathetic. The incident happened at about 2 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. and it was cult-related. What I heard was that a cult member from North Bank had a clash with his colleagues and ran to stay with his friend in High Level.

"Those who were killed were not cult members, but because they accommodated the boy, they were

attacked.

"I have reported the incident to all security agencies and they assured me that the perpetrators would be apprehended. They mentioned one Odinaka, who has been terrorising the state, particularly Makurdi.

"He comes in, strikes and leaves. Right now, he is not in the state. Anytime he returns, he kills not less than 10 persons before fleeing. We do not know how he escapes.

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