

Bloody



VINCENT ADEKOYE, Benin

THE late Pa Amos Emokpai, even in his grave, may not easily forgive his son, Kinsley, for whose sake he and his wife were brutally murdered in cold blood by some suspected cultists. This is because his dream of sponsoring his only son to the highest level of education was to have a rewarding lifetime and age gracefully, even to the grave.

Rather than achieve this goal, he along with his wife were cruelly killed in broad daylight, like a sacrificial lamb in place of the very son he laboured so hard to give a bright future.

Just as members of his family are still crying

and wailing even 72 hours after the tragic incident, his blood may have continued to groan for the way and manner life was snuffed out of him and his beloved wife.

The killing of Pa and Madam Emokpai of Wisdom Street, off Ogida Quarters, Benin City, Edo state, by some blood thirsty suspected cultists Sunday afternoon, climaxed the over one month cult related killings in Benin City and its environs.

It would be recalled that as at press time, no fewer than 37 persons, some of who were unfortunate, innocent victims are confirmed to have been killed in the cult war in various parts of the state and precisely, within the Benin City

Cultists kill 70-yr-old man, wife for son's sake

metropolis.

The killings started with that of two students of the University of Benin by some suspected rival cult groups and thereafter, spread to other parts of the state.

Source within the Emokpai family told *Saturday Champion* that apart from imposing family curse on the son of the late man, the family has resolved to disown him and strike his name out of the family lineage directory. This implies that he, nor any of his children in future, can access any of the property of the Emokpai family.

Source within the family also told *Saturday Champion* that the late Pa Emokpai, who was in his early 70s, was in the house when the angels of death came calling. Reports said the four young men neatly dressed, had arrive the premises in two motorcycles and asked of Kingsley, a final year student of one of the universities located in the state.

The voice of the visitors attracted attention of the father, who was resting in the sitting room.

"Papa asked them why they were looking for his son. They said they had a message for him from school and they would like to deliver it personally to him. At this point, Papa, who was unaware that Kinsley had sighted the guys earlier and escaped through the back door, told the visitors to wait while he call his son for

them.

"As he moved, two of the guys followed him and marched to the centre of the house and on the way, he met the wife and asked her in Benin dialect the whereabouts of their son who was around few minutes ago. The wife replied that he was not around. This apparently angered one of the visitors, who understands the language and who shouted 'why did you asked him to run, then you shall pay for his sins.' It was at that point he shot the woman in the fore head and she fell.

"Then the father turned back and asked what was happening, and the same gun trotting young man opened fire on the old man, and blowing off his head from the back. He died on the spot.

"The sound of the gun shot attracted other people in the compound and the guys ran out of the house to the waiting bike that brought them, shouting as they were going that 'tell the stupid Kinsley that we shall still come for him,' one of the occupants of the house narrated.

Reports say the couple gave up the ghost before help could come for them.

It was learnt that the controversial Kinsley has refused to show up, even after the incident for fear of being attacked by his kinsmen.

Commenting on the sad development, one of the elders in the family, Mr. Solomon described the incident as the highest crime against humanity.

"Since I was born, I have never seen this type of horror before. It beats one's imagination that children who ought to be light and hope to their parents have become source of worry to them.

"In fact, I am still battling to believe that Kinsley is a member of any cult group because he is such a gentle boy.

"Well, we have met and decided to place a curse on him for sending his parents, who laboured to give him life and future, to early grave. We have ruled out any forgiveness on this matter and no matter what it will take, he will not end well in life. The blood of his parents will continue to hunt him and he will never have peace wherever he is now.

"We are of the opinion that he may have killed somewhere and that was why his rival cult members armed to come and kill him. Unfortunately, he sighted them and escaped and so they killed his father and mother in the process.

"We will not bury them until we conclude the process of imposing the curse," Mr. Solomon said.

But speaking on the development, public relation officer of the state police command, Mr. Peter Ogboi (DSP), expressed sadness over the level of cult activities in the state and called on parents to give their children Godly upbringing.

"It is sad, but this is to teach us as parents that we need to give our children Godly upbringing so that they could take care of us and give us good rest during our old age.

"Recently, a 74-year-old man was arrested and he is still in our custody. His offence was that he deceived policemen on the identity of his son, who is a cultist. When policemen came, based on confession of other members of the group, to arrest his son, he gave the police the picture of one of his old tenants, who is presently abroad, thereby deceiving police.

"The man knows that his son is a cultist and was even aware of the recent crime he committed and that was why he deceived the policemen. That is just one example out of the numerous activities of parents.

"We should join hands with police and volunteer information to them so that they can send cultists packing from the state," the police image maker said.

Policeman cries for justice over murdered son

CHUKWUDI ACHIFE, Enugu

FOR Police Sergeant Oke Nwokike, life has gone very awry indeed and his sorrows appear to know no bounds. Life has become one big irony. In his more than 28 years in the force, he has encountered and contended with all manner of crimes and criminal elements. But nothing in his experience had prepared him for the rude shock he received on January 23 this year via a telephone call from his wife.

For about 22 years, the 52-year-old officer, who hails from Umuogodoakpu Ngbo in Ohaukwu local government area of Ebonyi state and his family had lived in Akwuke, Awkunanaw, a small community near Enugu and had been so integrated with the indigenes that he and his household had started considering themselves members of the community.

All that was to change on the January 22 when while he was at work at his new posting in Owerri, Imo state, a group of youths from the community invaded his house in the night and forcibly took away his first son.

When he received a call from his wife the next day, it was to be told that the broken and lifeless body of his first son, Sunday Egede Nwokike, had been discovered in the town's market square.

A close examination of the body showed that the 25-year-old Sunday had been thoroughly beaten before being forced to swallow some liquid believed to be acid. The burns on his mouth, throat and forehead lent much credence to this suspicion.

Upon inquiry, the police officer learnt from his second son, Ifeanyi, that on the night of January 22, one Chinedu Ewo Nwagbo, a close friend of the deceased with whom he had however engaged in a brawl over an undisclosed matter in November, 2008, came to their house with a band of about 20 young men and demanded to see Sunday.

When he (Sunday) emerged, they asked him to produce a bag he was alleged to be keeping but when he pleaded his innocence,



Sgt Nwokike

the young men pounced on him and dragged him towards a nearby River known as Inyama.

His mother tried to follow but she was forced back and with threats of death, if she persisted. The poor woman returned to her house expecting the worst, which was unfortunately confirmed the next day when her son's body was discovered at the market square with a broken down VCD player lying by it.

Upon his arrival, Nwokike had promptly reported the matter to the Awkunanaw police station, which treated it as homicide and transferred the case to the state Criminal Investigation Department.

He said he was shocked however when his colleagues after 'investigations,' arrested only one suspect, Sunday Ekwomchi, and began preparations to charge him to court. He had quickly petitioned the Zonal Police Headquarters at Umuahia, Abia state, complaining about the shoddy handling of the case and the boasts by members of the community that the matter was as good as



The late Sunday Nwokike

dead.

The Zonal Headquarters had upon receiving his petition, called for the file of the case but for some curious reasons, the state CID was yet to comply as at the time he narrated his ordeal to *Saturday Champion*.

Also the traditional ruler of the town, Igwe Theodore Nwoye, and chairman of the town union, Benard Nwoye, who also doubles as its chief security officer, were yet to heed the invitation to Umuahia.

Nwokike alleges that the Igwe had instead, ordered a levy on the indigenes of the town for use in pursuing the case. He further alleges that after his son was murdered, the indigenes of the town have, apparently fearing the implications, been doing their best to frustrate the case and frame the deceased as a criminal.

"What they (the indigenes) are now trying to do is very much obvious to me. They know that it is a serious matter and that is why they are doing their best to frustrate it. Right

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