

Youths on rampage in Delta, kill 2

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

SOME youths in Ibusa community of Delta State where ritual killings have become rampant in recent times took to the streets yesterday, burning houses and killing two persons including a 68-years-old businessman, Patrick Aitiebe.

Aitiebe who hailed from Omor-Anyamola Local Government Area of Anambra State was

killed in Achalla quarters of the town while escaping from the youths who had barricaded all major roads.

As early as 6.30am, the youths from Umuodafe quarters started burning houses which included that of Mr. Patrick Okolie, a prominent person in the town.

It was learnt that immediately after the burning of Mr. Okolie's house and his 504 car, they proceeded to Achalla quarters to

destroy more property valued at millions of naira.

Although the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Mr. Charles Muka who confirmed the story did not give reasons for the youth's action, *Daily Trust* gathered that the mayhem was due to the unending ritual killings in Ibusa, Oshimili North Local Government Area of Delta State.

About a month ago, youths from the same Umuodafe quar-

ters burnt about five houses while protesting the killing of one Uche Okonji over a land deal.

The police spokesman said the Ibusa problem was purely internal to them and only they would help the police to stop it. He said no arrest had been made but urged the people of the community to help the police in their investigations to end the killings.

Daily Trust gathered that the

police had once drafted mobile policemen from Ogwashi-Uku to stop youths and others from killing people but with protests from the indigenes, the police authorities withdrew their men.

Meanwhile, the police in Ozoro, in Isoko North Local Government Area have arrested two persons, Dennis Okpolua and Anthony Patrick, for attempting to kidnap one Joseph Omojita of Emevor and his wife.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



ON lookers at the scene of a car accident that resulted in the death of by standers near Mabushi bus stop, Abuja, yesterday.

Unknown persons kill JUTH doctor

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

A medical practitioner with the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) Dr. Osaretin Osagie, was Wednesday night killed by unknown persons in his Rayfeild residence in Jos.

The men were said to have entered the premises around 7:30 pm and on hearing movements around the house the late doctor came out of his house to find out what was going on only for the assailants to pounce on him hitting him with different kinds of weapons till he became unconscious.

He was said to be bleeding profusely all over and was rushed to the hospital around midnight but died early Thursday. Police Public Relations Officer Mohammed Lerama said he had not received the report the National Vice President of the Nigeria Medical Association Dr. Christopher Piwuna confirmed the incident, saying doctors in Nigeria were beginning to feel uncomfortable as they seem to have become targets of some unidentified persons in the society. He said only recently, a doctor was abducted in Benin, Edo State and was killed even after the family paid the ransom demanded by the kidnappers.

Dr. Piwuna added that the murder of Dr. Osagie happened too suddenly for them to be a coincidence and called on the government to urgently order an investigation otherwise doctors in the hospital would stop working.

Boko Haram sect denies involvement in Bauchi killing

From Ahmed Mohammed, Bauchi

BARELY 24 hours after a policeman, Abdulmuminu Adamu, attached to the private residence of the Bauchi State Commissioner for Special Duties Musa Mu'azu Badara was killed by yet to be identified killers, members of the Boko-Haram sect have denied involvement in the killing, saying they know nothing about it.

A leader of the sect in Bauchi State who spoke to newsmen on phone yesterday giving his name as Mohammed Kabir denied killing the policeman, saying his sect should not in any way be linked to the killing even though the style used in the operation was similar to the one in Maiduguri which the sect owned up to.

Assailants approached the house in the Federal Low Cost area of Bauchi metropolis at about 8pm with the intention to attack the commissioner who was not at home and instead shot and killed the policeman on duty.

The leader who spoke in Hausa however assured residents of Bauchi not to panic as according to him, the sect members do not have anything against the people but were fighting against government and its agents for reasons he said he would not disclose now but at a later date and time when it becomes absolutely necessary.

The state Police Commissioner Danlami Yar'adua said investigation had begun to ascertain the motive behind the killing as well as to track down the killers. The Bauchi State govern-

ment has declared that stringent security measures were being put in place to ensure that lives and property of citizens were adequately protected anywhere in the state.

Meanwhile, the state Police Command has begun investigation into the killing of the policeman.

The state government through the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Media Affairs Sanusi Mohammed said the killing was an assassination by suspected hired killers who he said would soon be arrested and punished in accordance with the law. Wife of the deceased, Murjanatu Abdulmumini, called on the government to help fish out the culprits and assist with the five children he left behind.