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### Nigeria: Suspected Cultists Kill One in Benue

Tagged: Legal Affairs, Nigeria, West Africa

BY HOPE ABAH. 22 SEPTEMBER 2012

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Makurdi — A twenty-five-year-old man has been killed in Makurdi, the Benue State capital by suspected cultists who trailed him to his family house on return from work Thursday night.

Family source said the deceased, Simon John had just returned home after the day's work and was about to enter his room in the family house located at No. 3, Boniface Okoli Street, Wadata when his assailant dragged him out.

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"More than 30 young men between the ages of 23 and 29 stormed our compound at 8:00pm last night, about the time, Simon wanted to enter his room, having just returned from work.

"The men were armed with guns and other dangerous weapons; without any cause, they dragged my brother to the next compound and fired shots at him, killing him instantly," said Chig Ashigbiade, elder brother of the deceased.

Weekly Trust gathered that the assailants also made away with Simon's handset and his proceeds for the day's job being a commercial motorcyclist.

A neigbour, Martins Onah who described the deceased as "a good man", said cult boys have continued to terrify residents of the area in recent times.

"At least, two or more persons are killed in this vicinity every month and the police had done nothing about it. We live here in fear," Onah said.

The deceased's wife, Mrs. Abigail Simon, mother of their two children said she has gone to a nearby shop to buy some items when loud screaming within the neigbourhood attracted her to run back home only to find the lifeless body of her husband on the ground.

She said few minutes later, the police came and picked the corpse away:

But, the police, when contacted could not confirm the incident as its spokesman, Daniel Ezeala insisted that they were yet to be briefed on the matter.

Meanwhile, residents of the area had called on government and security agencies to beef up surveillance around the place to avert further loss of lives.

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