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Cultists on rampage in Benue

Written by Hope Abah, Makurdi Saturday, 29 September 2012 05:00



The growing activities of dare-devil cultists are giving residents across Benue State a s cause for concern.

Hellish tales have become the lot of residents in most popular cities of Benue State in recent Gangs of suspected cultists are becoming more brutal and daring. Bloody trails are left beh victims meet their deaths in the most gruesome manner, either under the cloak of darkness broad day light. Fear has become the order of day for residents, especially of Gboko and M of late.

Only recently, two students of Fidei Polytechnic in Gboko were hacked to death by a gang suspected cultists.

Last Sunday, a group of young boys struck at the NKST Church located at High Level, Makur killed another young man about their age who was entering into the church.

Also, the authorities of the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi closed down the institution week ago following clash between rival cultists. The suspected cultists have been on rampa the campus, raping girls and killing perceived enemies.

Within the same period, police in the state said it arrested no less than 45 suspected cultist different parts of the state with dangerous weapons recovered from them.

Amazingly, most of the apprehended suspects were either teenagers or in their early 20s. Th percentage of school age youths involved in the criminality has become so worrisome th Deputy Police Public Relations Officer Ejike Alaribe in the state, once said, "so many inr children and youths are being lured into cultism and other forms of crime by their ba evil-minded friends".

As a result of the development, every new day now becomes a miracle and every succ movement between 6:00pm and 10:00pm within the affected towns, is a cause for celeb because the 'boys' are on the loose; snatching their victims' belongings, maiming, raping and innocents souls.

And so, it happened last week, when he decided to call it a day after plying the roads for nea working hours. Simon John, a commercial motorcyclist, was eager to return to the warm err of his wife and two kids.

Unfortunately, that was never to be as the 27-year-old was gruesomely murdered by unl gunmen suspected to be cultists who stormed his No. 3 Boniface Street home, Ankpa quar Makurdi, the state capital having trailed him while returning from work that fateful Thursday nice

As he wanted to open the door to his house at about 8:00pm, the young men numbering up accosted and dragged him out to the next compound before they snuffed life out of him.

Family source said the late Simon had just returned after the day's work and was about to his room in the family house when his assailant forcefully dragged him to the neigbourhoo

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