

of the statistics spanned levies for business owners different brands of motor Police Command accounted and cartridges of different December 2015 to November and motorists," the police vehicles were reportedly stolen, for the highest number. Fifty-calibres.

Rival cult gangs battle for territorial control

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

In the last six months, most communities in Lagos State have played host to brutal rival cult groups and miscreants popularly known as area boys.

Residents in Lagos State areas such as Lagos Island, Shomolu, Ikorodu, Mushin, Alimosho, Ajegunle, Agege and Ijanikin now live in fear, not knowing when next the trigger-happy cultists will strike.

In broad daylight, cultists armed to the teeth with sophisticated weapons

unleash terror on residents, destroying properties, raping girls and maiming innocent people.

In the Ijanikin community, the entire Vespa Bus-Stop and Aiyetoro areas were turned into a war zone, penultimate Monday, as guns, bottles and stones were used by rampaging miscreants to attack residents, and one another.

When the dust eventually settled, four persons were feared killed at Vespa, while two others were hacked down at Aiyetoro. Residents said they started hearing sporadic gun shots as early as

8:00a.m. An eyewitness told Eko Trust there was pandemonium in the area as blood-thirsty youths went from one corner of the street to another in search of rival gang members.

"A trader in fairly used shoes identified as Perry Biggy was said to have been overpowered and killed," he said.

Reports said that the timely intervention of the Ijanikin police division, headed by Chief Superintendent of Police Eugene, prevented the crisis from escalating.

As a result of the ongoing situation,

night life has disappeared in most of the areas as residents and traders now stay indoors as early as 7:00p.m. to avoid being caught in the rivals' crossfire, or fear of being arrested by the police.

Traders at the Vespa market alleged that the gang members, majority of whom were said not to be students, enjoy the support of their fellow cultists studying at the Adeniran Ogunlana College of Education, Ijanikin, as well as the support of some villagers.

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