

One killed, 15 arrested as suspected cultists disrupt trading at Ketu market

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

Scores of hoodlums suspected to be members of a secret cult, Eiye Confraternity, yesterday took to the streets in Ketu, Lagos, to protest the alleged arrest of some of their members by policemen in the area.

Witnesses alleged that the hoodlums, numbering over 50, blocked the main entrance to the Ketu market, smashing windcreens of vehicles along the Ikorodu-Ojota expressway and inflicting injuries on many people.

Market leaders called in the police from the Ketu division of the Lagos State police command.

A trader at the Ketu-Mile 12

market, Mohammed Garba, said that on arrival at the scene, policemen opened fire into the air to disperse the protesters. One of the protesters was said to have been felled by a bullet, killing him on the spot.

Garba said that the death of the protester fuelled the crisis as his colleagues dared the police to shoot them.

Another witness, Aisha Ahmed, said that the crisis had actually started on Monday evening when the protesters learnt of the arrest of one of their cult members.

"The hoodlums came out as early as 6.30am yesterday in their numbers. Before we knew what was happening, they had taken over the gate and started