

11 Killed in Asaba Cult Clashes

A gripping orgy of violence is currently ripping through the streets of Asaba, Delta State capital in what is believed to be a clash between rival cult groups. With the shooting in broad day light of a young man in his early twenties, the number of people killed in the gruesome fight has inched to 11 amidst renewed fighting yes-

From Kingsley Nwezeh

in Asaba

terday afternoon.

As early as 6pm residents of the most affected area namely Ogbesowe rush home to beat the time before violence erupts each day even in the absence of a curfew.

Ehindero Hails Yusufu's Contributions to Civil Democracy

Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero yesterday extolled the democratic credentials of a former Inspector General of Police and presidential candidate of the Movement for Democracy and Justice (MDJ) in the 2003 presidential election, Alhaji Muhammed Dikko Yusuf, saying that he was one of those who facilitated the nation's return to civil democracy in 1979.

Speaking on the occasion of the public presentation of "Aristocratic Rebel", the biography of M.D. Yusufu written by the author, Ehindero said the

From Sufuyan Ojeifo

in Abuja

defunct National Democratic Coalition (NADECO), Mr. Ayo Opadokun, the police boss said Yusufu gave the Nigeria Police an exceptional leadership that made the force what it is today.

According to him, "Let me observe that Alhaji M.D. Yusufu has made the Nigeria Police what it is today.

As the Inspector General of Police from 1975 to 1979, he was one of those who facilitated the nation's return to civil rule in 1979.

But the Delta State Commissioner for Information, Dr Festus Okubo said the state government is confident that the state police command has what it takes to tackle the situation.

"The state government is appealing to Deltans to provide the police with the necessary information needed to contain the situation. We have the confidence that the Commissioner of Police has what it takes to deal with the situation. This borders on security and the police commissioner briefs the security council from time to time and the council is satisfied that they are taking adequate steps. We are confident that the Police is capable of handling the issue", he said.

The state police commissioner, Udom Ekpo Udom who admitted that only four people have been killed so far, in reassuring residents of the city of his command's preparedness to deal with the situation, noted that the war was between rival cult groups tied to families involved in land tussles in the city as well as the ambition of some people to clinch certain positions in the state government.