

NEWS

THE GUARDIAN

Tuesday, February 02, 2010

HOME

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

MEMBERS

CONTACT US

[Learn Yoruba In 27 Days](#)

Yoruba For Kids Abroad Get FREE
Software Download
www.YorubaForKidsAbroad.com

[Personal Security Removal](#)

Remove Personal Security Instr.
How to remove Personal Security.
www.wiki-security.com

[Remove Personal Security.](#)

How to Remove Personal Security.
Personal Security Removal Instr.
www.spywareremove.com

Ads by Google

ARCHIVES

[Read Past Issues](#)

NEWS

National
Metro
Africa
World
Business

OPINION

Editorial
Columnists
Contributors
Letters
Cartoons
Discussions
Outlook

SPORTS

Home
Abroad
Golf Weekly
Results

FEATURES

Focus
Policy & Politics
Arts
Media
Science
Natural Health
Law
Education
Weekend
Friday Review
Executive Briefs
Fashion
Food & Drink
Auto Wheels
Friday Worship
Saturday Magazine
Sunday Magazine
Ibru Ecumenical
Centre
Agro Care

BUSINESS SERVICES

Property
Appointments
Money Watch
Market Report
Capital Market
Business Travels
Maritime Watch
Industry Watch
Energy Report
Insurance
Compulife

Tuesday, February 02, 2010

Cult clashes spread in Makurdi*From Simeon Nwakaudu, Makurdi*

THE cult clash that claimed some lives in Wadata suburb of Makurdi last week has spread to Demekpe, another suburb in the town, where a youth was feared killed at the weekend as cultists exchanged gunfire.

Also, anxiety is growing across the town following the arrest of a group of men suspected to be mercenaries from the north, who were lurking round a church on Barracks Road in Makurdi, the state capital.

The men numbering about 10 hung around the church until late in the evening of Friday before the youths of the church reportedly overpowered them and handed them over to the Police Command headquarters nearly a kilometre away.

At Demekpe, the cult clash that shook Wadata earlier in the week extended to the area as rival groups engaged one another in revenge mission following the Wadata killings.

Residents of Demekpe had a rough Friday night as cult members were on the prowl seeking to fish out perceived enemies.

As in Wadata, residents of Demekpe who share homes with cultists fled the area for fear of being caught in the deadly crossfire.

Fidelis Tar, a resident of Demekpe, told The Guardian that the clash might not be unrelated with the Wadata cult fight, as some of the fighters came to the area from Wadata.

On Sunday, text messages and calls from concerned residents over the alleged arrest of some suspected mercenaries from the far north by members of a church predominantly attended by Northern Christians in Makurdi sent panic across the town.

Even in churches, announcements were made by pastors and priests urging the faithful to be vigilant so as not to be taken unawares.

The Police and military continued their joint patrol across the town, trying to assure residents of their safety.

In a public service announcement at the weekend in response to the text messages and calls, Security Adviser to Governor Gabriel Suswam, Col. Benjamin Abohol (rtd) urged residents to ignore the text messages being circulated over security issues in the town.

Abohol assured that the security agencies were primed to tackle any eventuality.

The Guardian on Sunday put across calls and text messages to the state Police Commissioner, Ibrahim Mohammed and Abohol on the arrest of the mercenaries and their subsequent hand-over to the police, but none of them replied.

Website Search

However, the Police Public Relations Officer, Benue State Command, Opaluwa Akor, said he was not aware of the mercenaries' arrest.

On Friday after a meeting with the Hausa community in his office, Mohammed told reporters that the command arrested three youths in connection with the Wadata cult fight.

Tools

- [Send to a friend](#)
- [Printer-friendly version](#)

© 2003 - 2009 @ Guardian Newspapers Limited (All Rights Reserved).

Powered by [FirstEntSol LTD®](#)