

Cultists kill student, woman in Owerri

By Anolu Vincent
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TWO OPPOSING cult fraternity groups known as "Axemen" and "22" at the weekend invaded Akwakuma and Amakohia autonomous communities in the Owerri North LGA of Imo State, killing a member of the Axemen, who was identified as Oge Okorie.

The late Okorie, until his death, resided at Amadi street Amakohia on Owerri/Orlu Road, which is a stone's throw from the Owerri municipality while another person, nicknamed "Codon" escaped with bullet wounds.

An eyewitness told the Daily Independent that in the ensuing shootout, the cultists shot and killed an aged woman, who was said to be suffering from high

blood pressure.

Daily Independent gathered that trouble started when a member of the Axemen went to a tailor, who was said to be a member of 22 rival fraternities to pick his cloths, which he later gave to his fellow cultist to sew for months ago only to discover that the job had not been done.

Angered by the development, the two men, it was equally gathered engaged each other in a fist-cuff and in the confusion the tailor used his scissors to inflict injuries on his opponent.

With blood gushing out ceaselessly, the Axemen reportedly alerted his group, who attacked the tailor not knowing that he (the tailor) had his own group standing by.

The late Oge Okorie, who

hailed from Abia State, was shot dead by the group, which came for revenge while Codon, an indigene of Amakohia, escaped with bullet wounds.

When the Daily Independent visited the family of the late Okorie, the father, Michael Okorie, who shed tears, said that his son was a student of the Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education (AIFCE), Owerri, even as he claimed ignorance of his son being a cultist.

The body of the deceased was later deposited at a private hospital mortuary Owerri.

Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO), Vitalis Onugu (ASP) when contacted on his mobile phone, said that he was yet to get the report of the incident. He, however, promised to investigate

and to call back later.

In a related development, the Special Assistant (SA) to Governor Rochas Okorocha on Public Affairs and popular Nollywood actress, Nkiru Sylvanus, was at the weekend abducted by yet to be identified gunmen around the Imo Concorde Hotel, Owerri.

The actress was said to have visited the hotel in the company of some friends when the gunmen struck.

It was gathered that the abductors are demanding N100 million ransom for her release.

Although police authorities in the state had denied knowledge of the incident, a highly placed Government House source had confirmed it.

ITC procures 50 new buses for Yuletide operations

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IMO STATE Government has procured 50 brand new 30-seater buses to boost operations of the Imo Transport Company (ITC) during the Yuletide period.

Managing Director of the company, Emeka Duru, who disclosed this, said the additional buses were procured to ensure that indigenes of the state and other Nigerians travel to their destinations safely and with comfort. Duru explained that the management of the company had designed a framework that now offers the indigenes returning to the state from different parts of the country options as the company has in its fleet brand new