

The Police Edo State Command on Tuesday paraded 72 armed robbery, kidnapping and cultists, who have been plaguing Benin metropolis in the past few weeks, in connection with the arrest of the suspects, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr Johnson Kokumo, said 58 cult members were linked to the killings of persons in different parts of the state who were among those paraded. There was heightened vigilance in the state against rival cult groups: Black Axe, Eiyee, Black Vikings within the past 11th and 14th October, which led to death of persons.

The police quickly arrested and restored normalcy, 39 arms, 54 cartridge battle axes and five trunks were recovered from the 72 suspects. Kokumo gave break down of suspects to include one on Omorodion, 34, who was arrested for allegedly killing his younger brother, Imuetiyan Omorodion, 27, by stabbing him in the neck with a knife in an argument between

on October 10, this year;

Edo Police Command Parades 72 Cultism, Kidnapping, Armed Robbery

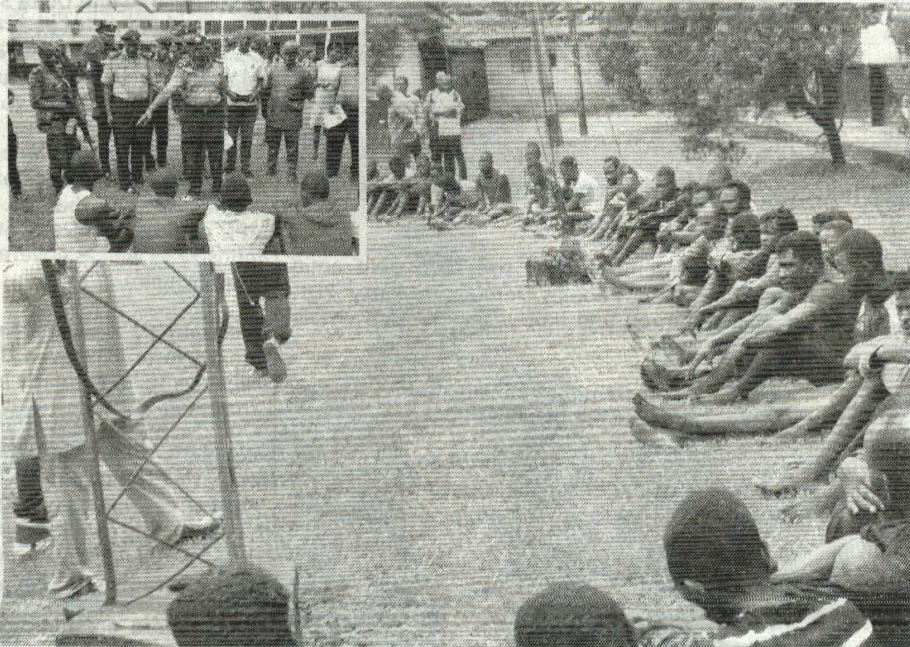
for allegedly kidnapping a 36-year-old lady at Ugbowo area of Benin City," he added.

The Police boss reiterated the need for citizens to be vigilant at all times and to report any suspicious activity to the police for prompt attention, assuring that the state was unsafe for criminals.

One of the suspected cultists, who is a member of Eiyee Confraternity, identified as Azuka Ike, said he joined the cult few years ago and has remained a member but was arrested in Delta State when he fled Edo State, following the renewed fracas with rival cult group.

Precious Okpako, a cab driver, who was rescued by the quick response of the Police, commended the Force for saving him from the armed robbers, who posed as customers.

"I was hired and my car taken from me at gun point and was locked in the booth of my car but I managed to escape and raise an alarm."



Edo State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Johnson Kokumo, parading 72 suspected cultists, kidnappers, armed robbers