

# Cult Gangs Clash Claims Two Lives In Minna

CHINWENDU NNADOZIE  
MINNA

A police officer and an Igbo businessman, Mr. Ifeanyi Ozuoka, were killed when youth gangsters from Lima-wa engaged their Ogbomoso Street counterparts within Minna metropolis in a bloody clash at the weekend.

The immediate cause of the fight which started Thursday between the gangsters from the two communities within the state capital could not be immediately ascertained, but feelers had it that it has to do with tussle for supremacy among some different groups of gangsters.

While details of how the life of the policeman drafted to quell the crisis was cut short remained sketchy, the Igbo man is said to have been killed by one of the gangsters inside his machine parts shop located around Ogbomoso Road.

The gangster whose identity could not be ascertained was said to have charged from the war front and headed to the Igbo man's shop and stabbed him severally with a knife laced with poisonous substance.

While the trader collapsed and in a pool of blood, our correspondent learnt that the gangs immediately left the scene before neighbours and passers-by came and rushed him to a nearby hospital but he

later died on Friday morning.

As the cult war raged, our correspondent also reports that vehicular movements were disrupted along the Bosso Road, central mosque link to Mobil Roundabout for hours prompting residents within the area to abandon their shops and businesses and run for dear life while some who were caught up got various degrees of injury. It was not the first time gangsters from some hamlets in Minna were engaging in cult war and each time the police intervention brought about temporary peace only for the war to continue after some time with each of the groups coming out fiercer in dealing with rivals.

Meanwhile the Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Niger State has called on the police to fish out whoever has a hand in the killing of their kinsman, Ifeanyi Ozuoka, and bring him to book.

President of the Ohaneze Ndigbo, Niger State chapter, Chief Emmanuel Ezeugo, in an interview described as unfortunate the gruesome murder of Ifeanyi Ozuoka by the rampaging cult groups.

Efforts to get the police confirmation of the hostility between the rival cults proved abortive as at the time of this report.

The phone number of the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Niger State Command, DSP Abiodun Wasiu, was ringing but no response.