

Six civilians, two policemen killed on 'Xmas day in Port Harcourt

THE Christmas which ought to have been a day of joy turned bloody in Port Harcourt as no fewer than six civilians and two policemen were killed in a cult clash. A businessman was abducted in another incident.

The Nation gathered that about five persons died in the incident that took place at Elelenwo, on the outskirts of the Rivers State capital. According to sources, two cult groups clashed following the outing of "Nwatam" mas-

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querade. In the end, five people lay dead while several others were injured by stray bullets because the two sides were said to have resorted to use of dangerous weapons.

At the time of this report, at least two bodies were still lying on the streets while some of those in-

jured in the crossfire seeking medical attention which appeared difficult to get as most hospitals were running skeletal services due to Christmas.

The bloody clash also affected movements in and out of the area even as police frisked everyone who ventured out of their homes.

However, in another incident, two policemen

were said to have lost their lives when some unknown persons went to No. 22 Elelenwo Street, new GRA, Port Harcourt, the home of a man simply referred to as Georgewill, ostensibly to abduct him.

It was gathered that the assailants scaled high walls to enter into Georgewill's compound before abducting him.

Though the number of the abductors could not be ascertained but it was said that while some members of the gang jumped into his compound with the use of a ladder, others were outside shooting sporadically into the air to scare away people. Those that entered the compound killed his security dogs and his gateman.

By the time they abducted Georgewill, who owns a tarpaulin company in the upper class D-Line,

Port Harcourt and put him in their car boot to escape, some policemen said to have been attracted to the scene arrived to challenge them.

In the ensuing shoot-out, two of the policemen were feared dead while the gang successfully escaped to Eagle Island with their captive.

A visit to the home of the Georgewill showed that the place was a battle field as it looked deserted while bullet holes were still visible on the ash coloured walls. The house is located close to *Skippers* and *Happy Bite*, two popular eateries in the area.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Bassey Inyang confirmed the abduction but denied that two of his men were killed.

But the Police Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Ireju Barasua in confirming the Elelenwo clashes, said that some people died and that she was yet to have details.

