

Imam killed during festival in Ogun

•Youths set masquerader's home ablaze

Woman, grandson murdered

From Ernest Nwokolo, Abeokuta

A 30-YEAR-old Imam, Mr. Lateef Amusa, has been killed during a festival in Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital.

He was allegedly shot by masquerade worshippers in Ijaiye on Sunday.

It was learnt that the late Amusa boarded a motorcycle and was going to Oke-Ejigbo when they ran into a procession of masquerade worshippers.

Sources said worshippers flagged down the motorcyclist but the cleric told him not to stop.

They said the worshippers blocked the way and an argument ensued.

It was gathered that the cleric was shot several times by some of the worshippers. He died immediately. His body was later evacuated by the police.

Amusa's elder brother, Muftau, said: "I was relaxing with my friends on Sunday when somebody came to tell me that my younger brother had been killed by masquerade worshippers. I was told he met the masquerade wor-

A 60-YEAR-OLD woman, Mrs. Amoke Musuru and her two-year-old grandson, Balqis, have been murdered at their home in Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital.

Their remains were discovered yesterday in their one-room apartment at Ago-Oba.

The injuries on their heads suggested that they might have been hit with an iron rod. Their beddings and the floor were stained with blood.

The police released their remains to their family after a post-mortem.

Police spokesman Olumuyiwa Adejobi said two suspects, who were arrested and questioned, have been released.

The late Mrs. Musuru's son, Saburi Moshood, said: "We arrived the family home without

knowledge of the killing and started suspecting that something was wrong from the way residents were greeting us.

"We went to our mother's room and found her lifeless body and that of her grandchild on the floor. When the police came, they discovered the iron rod that was used to kill them and took it away as exhibit. They also took the bodies away, but later released them to us. We have buried them.

"What will we come here to do again? Our mother and her grandson were killed here. There is no reason to look back when we leave."

From Ernest Nwokolo, Abeokuta

shippers on his way to Oke-Ejigbo and they shot him during an argument."

Police spokesman Olumuyiwa Adejobi said four persons, including the masquerader, had been arrested.

Adejobi said: "The de-

ceased and two others were on a bike when they ran into the masquerade's entourage. We understand that there was a heated argument between them. Investigation revealed that others in the masquerade's camp abandoned the masquerade after one of them shot and killed Amusa. The

Commissioner of Police has ordered that all masquerade festivals be put on hold until further notice."

Yesterday, Muslim youths burnt the home of one of the masqueraders, Leyin Ponle.

The Alake of Egbaland, Oba Michael Gbadebo has ordered a suspension of the masquerade festival.