

# Policeman, three others killed in cult clash

Precious Dikewoha, Port Harcourt and Nicholas Kalu, Calabar

A police inspector, identified as Mathew, has been killed by suspected cultists in Calabar, the Cross River State capital.

Police spokesman John Umoh said the matter was being investigated. No one, he said, has been arrested.

It was learnt that Mathew left his room at Zion Street, 8 Miles, to ease himself when he ran into some suspected cultists, who were passing by.

According to a source, he pointed his torchlight at them and they queried why he should do so.

He said: "They asked the man why he should point his torchlight at them.

"He did not quarrel with them. After that he just went back into his room to sleep.

"After about 10 minutes, they mobilised themselves and came back and attacked him in his house. They hacked him to death.

"We have no idea which group it was, but we know they were cultists."

The deceased's neighbours said they had been living in fear as groups of boys, who they believed to be cultists, terrorise them.

In Rivers State, three suspected cultists have been confirmed dead in Omuawa community, Ikwerre Local Government Area, after a clash between Degban and Dewell cult groups.

The clash, which took place yesterday evening, also led to the arrest of five suspected cultists by the State Special Anti-robbery Squad (SARS).

An eyewitness, Jonah Nnnana, said: "The fight started by 6:30pm between Degban and Dewell.

"Members of Degban cult said they were avenging the death of their members. In fact it was a bloody evening."