

Five feared killed in cult clashes

By Jude Isiguzo

•Police confirm arrest of three suspects

FIVE persons have been feared killed in separate cult clashes in Lagos.

Three were reportedly killed in Shomolu; one each was confirmed killed in Ketu and Epe, according to the police.

A 27-year-old suspected cultist simply identified as Seyi was killed by members of a rival gang in the Ajelogo area of Ketu.

It was gathered that his wife was also raped by the suspects, and their nine-month-old baby injured before he was killed.

The police, it was gathered, have arrested three persons in connection with Seyi's murder.

The suspects allegedly slit Seyi's throat over an allegation that his group recently attacked some of

their colleagues in Ikorodu.

It was gathered that Seyi, said to be a member of Black Axe, resided at Ajelogo, Alapere-Ketu.

The late Seyi was attacked by a six-man gang on Sunday. Reports said his attackers came in the night and shot in the air to scare residents. It was said that after beating him to a coma, the cultists cut his throat.

Following a tip-off, the police were said to have arrested the three suspects while trying to escape. The suspects, alleged to be

members of Eiye Confraternity, according to sources, killed the deceased to establish the supremacy of their group.

It was gathered that the victim's wife told the police at Alapere that the suspects had earlier threatened to kill her husband because they suspected he was an informant to their rival cult group.

A police source at the police station said the case had been transferred to the State Special

Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), Ikeja.

Also, in Shomolu area of Lagos on Tuesday night, what was described as a reprisal attack on the late Seyi's killers occurred, leaving three persons dead. The cultists were said to have stormed Ajose area where they first shot a man, identified as Tunde, dead. The late Tunde's assailants were said to have accused him of raping one of their members' expectant wife during an earlier attack at Ponrele area of Abule Ijesha in

Yaba. There was also a clash in Epe where one person was reported killed.

Spokesperson of the Police Command, Ngozi Braide, confirmed the clash at Epe, saying: "We were told it was a clash between Eiye and Aiye cult groups; three suspects have been arrested. In the clash, one Idowu Awe was said to have been killed, but no report has been made to the police till date and no corpse has been recovered either. Now, normalcy has returned to the area and police are on ground to prevent any reprisal attack."

By Miriam Ekene-Okoro

Residents of