



# Suspected cultists kill 4, raze market, homes in A'Tbom

INIOMBONG EKPONTA - UYO

SUSPECTED cultists, on Thursday, attacked Udianga Enem community in Etim Ekpo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, killing no fewer than four persons.

According to some residents who spoke with the **Nigerian Tribune**, the gunmen arrived the community on motorcycles and shot dead four per-

sons, including a pastor.

Narrating his ordeal, the village head of Udianga Enem, Chief Mendie Josiah Udo Ekoriko, whose compound was also attacked, lamented that his motorcycle was taken away by the hoodlums.

"They set fire on the Afiong market in the village, and some other compounds, including Idung Akpanawo, where they chased the women, children and youths out of the houses before setting them (houses) ablaze," he stated.

According to him, "one of the victims, the pastor, came to the compound to see his aunt and was so unlucky to be around when the hoodlums arrived; they shot him several times at close range."

He appealed to security agencies to establish a police unit in the community "because people no longer sleep at home at night, as these armed hoodlums have been operating without any fear.

"Also, farming, which is the main business of the people, has been disrupted because people can no longer go to their farms," he said.

The local government chairman, Mr Udem Eduo, who is also from the village, confirmed the incident, saying he had met with the Commissioner of Police, Mr Muazu Zubairu, with a view to apprehending the suspect as well as strengthening security in the area.

He assured that he would work with security agencies to make the area safe

## appers nabbed

police on the various roles each of them played in the commission of the crime along the route.

Moshsood added that the suspects would be arraigned in court on completion of investigation.

He stated further that the police would continue to build on the current

successes to ensure that the last kidnapper was removed from the highway.

He enjoined members of the communities to always avail police with information to provide security for them, adding that the operation would be sustained to curtail crime across the country.

## l, police arrest 3

where the deceased also served as a teacher, but didn't see any trace of him.

"But when they visited his small house built on his farm, they found his body already decomposed, which prompted them to report the matter to us (police).

"We are not leaving any stone unturned until all those who have a hand in the killing of the cleric are found

and punished in accordance with the law of the land.

"We are happy that these three suspects are giving us useful statements and with time, we shall get to the root of the matter," Terna said.

He urged members of the public to avail the police with any useful information that could lead to the arrest of the other suspects.

## for defiling neighbour's daughter

girl on July 26 when he

prosecutor told the court.

Upon enquiry, the girl