

"The attack would have been more serious if not

Six others were released

nine suspects were ar-

of the penal code law.

months in prison, or pay-

Police informant shot, beheaded by suspected cultists in A'Ibom

INI OBONG EKPONTA - UYO

RESIDENTS of 81, Ikpa Road and the adjoining communities of Idak Okpo, Nnung Ikon and Udo Usanga in Afaha Oku, Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State currently live in fear, as police continue to raid the area for criminal elements.

This followed the killing of a 65-year-old police informant, one Raphael Sunday Udofia, by gun-

men suspected to be cultists.

Another informant, simply identified as Dan Mark, was also fatally shot and left for dead, according to one Effiong Akpan, a local vigilance group member, "but is currently receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital after the attack.

"He used his hands to try and block the bullets, but the bullets shattered his hands. He immediately fell

down and feigned death. The criminals left him, thinking he was dead."

According to Akpan, the deceased informant was shot and then beheaded, leaving the police to retrieve the decapitated body.

He ruled out the case of armed robbery, noting that the hoodlums numbering about 15, who attacked the two informants at the weekend, "never stole any property or cash from the

victims."

Udofia, according to family sources, had spent over 18 years in prison for killing his father before returning to take up the vigilance job in the area.

"After the attack, they only stole laptops and phones from some students of the University of Uyo (UNIUYO), before escaping from the scene of the attack," he said.

The matter, it was learnt, was being investigated by

the 'A' Divisional Police Station along the Wellington Bassey Way, Uyo.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Odiko Ogbeche, said the case had yet to be transferred to the Ikot Akpanabia headquarters.

He assured that no stone would be left unturned in fishing out the suspects, and appealed to residents to cooperate in the investigation.