

Metro

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... crime, security, court

Gunmen kill 4 passengers, abduct 4 church leaders in A'ibom

INI OBONG EKPONTA - UYO

GUNMEN, on Thursday, laid siege to Uruk Ata 2 community in Akwa-Ibom State, killing no fewer than four persons,

while also abducting three elders of Qua Iboe Church and another elder of the Christ Faith Church.

This is just as the activities of suspected cultists have continued unabated in Etim Ekpo Local Gov-

ernment Area of the state.

Nigerian Tribune

gathered that the gunmen, who reportedly moved from their camp in the neighbouring Ikpe village, attacked a commercial bus loaded with mourners on their way to a funeral ceremony, firing several shots, when the driver refused to stop.

A local vigilance group member who spoke on condition of anonymity said: "The hoodlums flagged down the bus around the Obot Uboko area of the Ukanafun- Iwukem highway, but when the driver

refused to stop, they fired randomly at the bus.

"Three persons were killed on the spot, while others sustained bullet wounds before the driver drove into a bush where the rest of the passengers fled."

Nigerian Tribune further gathered that another person, identified as Monday Udo, was also killed in a separate incident on allegation of being an informant to the police.

The vigilance group member said: "The hoodlums came in large numbers from the direction of Ikpe village and exchange gun-

fire with some mobile policemen stationed around the Akpan Umoh market area. The policemen then fled before the hoodlums chased the deceased to his house and killed him."

It was further learnt that the three leaders of Qua Iboe Church, Reverend Donald Ekpo Cooke, who is the resident pastor; Elder I. I. Ukpong and Elder Charles Udo, were abducted in the early hours of Thursday following a raid on the church by the cultists, while several parishioners scammed for safety, sustaining varying degrees

of injuries.

Another elder of the Christ Faith Church, Marcus Inyion, was also abducted in the early hours of same day, while two houses, including his, were set ablaze by the hoodlums. It was learnt that no fewer than seven houses were torched in the community.

When contacted on the incidents, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Adeyemi Ogunjemilusi, said he had yet to get the details from the Etim Ekpo Area Command, as he was in Abuja attending a work shop.

Army intercepts 3 trucks loaded with live cartridges in Ogun

THE 81 Division of the Nigerian Army on Thursday said it intercepted three trucks loaded with over 300, 000 live cartridges on the Igbogila-Ilara area of Ogun State, the **News**

on May 30 at about 2:58 a.m., intercepted three five-tonne trucks loaded with thousands of live cartridges," he said.

He said the trucks, which were intercepted at Ba-