

by a gang of gunmen suspected to be armed robbers in his residence in Owerri.

The Chairman of the House Committee on Information, Dr. Emma Dike, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on the telephone.

Dike said the suspects shot the lawmaker on his buttocks and injured him on his head with broken bottles.

He said the lawmaker who survived the attack had since been taken to the Federal Medical Centre, Owerri, where he was said to be responding to treatment.

According to Dike, the suspects entered the lawmaker's premises and tied the gate man on duty before heading to the main house to attack Opiah.

He was said to have left the door ajar having dosed off while watching a television programme.

Dike added that after robbing Opiah of his belongings, the assailants went to his neighbours and alerted them that robbers had attacked the lawmaker and should be attended to.

He said it was the stunned neighbours that as-

Students arraigned for cultism

Emmanuel Obe, Benin

TWENTY students from different institutions of higher learning were, on Monday, arraigned before a Benin Chief Magistrate's Court for belonging to an illegal group, unlawfully possessing dangerous weapons and conspiring as cult members.

The students were among the 34 suspects arrested by men of the Edo State Police Command in a hotel in Benin, on Saturday.

The accused, said to be members of the Eiye Confraternity, were alleged to be plotting a revenge of the recent killings in the university town of Ekpoma in Edo State when they were arrested.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Bala Hassan, had said the force would leave no stone unturned to bring troublemakers to book as the state moved towards the general elections.

Though pleas were not taken from the accused, the Chief Magistrate, Mr. Asemota, ordered that they be remanded in prison till October 25.

He said the court lacked jurisdiction to entertain the matter and would wait till the adjournment date when he said the state Director of Public Prosecutions would advise on what to do with the case.

Relations of the accused who thronged the court to secure the bail of their wards went home disappointed.

Many of them, especially the female relations, wept bitterly as prison's vehicles took the accused away.

The police also on Monday charged four students of the Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, for murder before an Ekpoma magistrate's court.

The accused were charged for the murder of seven people in Ekpoma two weeks ago during the clash between members of rival cult groups in the town.

Suspected cultists kill one

Olalekan Adetayo

ARMED men suspected to be cultists, on Friday, stormed a house located on Bashorun Street, Shomolu in Lagos and held a man, Samuel Oluhan, and other members of his family hostage.

The men, who arrived at the premises at about 9pm, reportedly shot and killed Oluhan's 26-year-old son, Ikenna.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Lagos State Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on Monday.

Ojajuni, a deputy superintendent of police, said immediately after killing the deceased, the hoodlums escaped from the

scene without removing any item from the house. This, he added, made the incident "look like a cult revenge."

He said the State Criminal Investigation Department, Panti Street, Yaba, had taken over the investigation into the case from the station where it was earlier reported.

Also, there was a report at Itire police station that a yet-to-be identified motorcyclist on Thursday came to a house located on Okuyemi Street, Odo-Eran, Itire to pick one Olanrewaju Ibrahim.

As at the time they were leaving the house, their destination was unknown to any of the residents.

But when Ibrahim did

not return home on time, a search party was set up for him.

The report made at Itire police station showed that his remains were later found at Alafia Street, Itire.

The police spokesman said policemen were drafted from the station to recover the corpse and deposit it at a mortuary.

Ojajuni said although marks of violence were found on the body of the deceased, the result of the autopsy which would be carried out on the deceased would assist in ascertaining the cause of his death.

He added that efforts were also on to ascertain the identity of the motorcyclist who allegedly took the deceased away.