

Gang war claims three lives

**Olamilekan Lartey,
Yenagoa**

RIVAL gang clashes have left three people dead and several houses burnt in Akaba, Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

The casualties included a grandmother and her two grandchildren who were burnt alive in their home in a reprisal attack for one of the sons of the woman.

The charred remains of the three victims had been deposited at the morgue of the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa.

Although accounts differed, several eye-witnesses in Akaba said men in white robes armed with guns and machetes, arrived at the village and asked for one Bobo, the son of the deceased.

When the woman was unable to produce her son, sources said, she and her grandchildren were locked up in the house and it was set ablaze.

The woman had been identified as Emial Awudu.

The paramount ruler of the community, David Alfred, said the hoodlums were cult members that attended Christian wake in a neighbouring village.

He alleged that the hoodlums had been after the son of the deceased and the President of the towns youth association. Mr. Otavie Sakwe.

Also, the Compound Chief of the village, Chief Moses Sakwe, said the rivalry between cult groups in the village and their neighbouring ones must have led to the attack.

The community leaders, however, appealed to the security agencies in the state to come to their aid by fishing out the known cult members and criminal gangs that were threatening the peace of the communities in the local government.

Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Inibong Ibokete, who confirmed the incident, said the command was investigating the incident.