

# Bayelsa cultists kill two as pirates rob traders

**Mike Odiegwu, Yenagoa**

**G**UNMEN suspected to be cultists on Monday killed two men along Good News Street, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

The killing occurred a day after pirates unleashed terror on traders along Akasa River in Brass Local Government Area of the state.

Our correspondent learnt that the Yenagoa shooting created panic among residents as many feared renewed cult clashes in the city.

Sources identified the victims simply as Orlando and Bishop from Ekeremor LGA.

While some claimed that Bishop was a security aide to Governor Seriake Dickson, the Senior Special Adviser to Dickson on Media and Publicity, Mr. Daniel Iworiso-Markson, said he was not aware of any security aide by such name.

The attack reportedly occurred at about 9am.

When our correspondent visited the scene of the

incident, policemen led by the Divisional Police Officer, Azikoro Police Station, Mrs. Rita Grean, cordoned off the area.

It was learnt that the assailants trailed their victims who were driving a Sports Utility Vehicle with registration number, GBJ 154 AA, to the street.

The bandits, who reportedly wore bulletproof vests, were said to have driven their SUV closer to the victims before opening fire on them.

An eyewitness, who

pleaded anonymity, said, "They shot the two men from the side windows and moved to the front of the vehicle to shoot them again."

Our correspondent also learnt that traders lost their valuables to the pirates who were said to have operated on Sunday.

The hoodlums were said to have snatched one of the boats conveying the traders.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr. Fidelis Odunda, confirmed the two incidents to our correspondent.

Meanwhile, the governor condemned the killing of the men in a statement by his Special Adviser on Security, Bernard Kenebai.

Dickson also denied claims that one of the victims of the incident was his security aide.

The statement said, "Governor Dickson is deeply sad by this incident and wishes to condole with the families of the deceased. We wish to debunk claims and insinuations that the persons killed are security aides to the governor.

"They were actually repentant militants working closely with the JTF, police and the SSS."

## NCP tackles INEC over planned deregistration

**Ade Adesomoju**

**N**ATIONAL Conscience Party has asked the Federal High Court in Lagos for an urgent hearing of its application seeking an order restraining the Independent National Electoral Commission from deregistering it or any other political party.

The NCP wants the application for the interim order to be heard during the annual judges' vacation which started on Monday.

Its summons for urgent hearing was filed on July 13, 2012 and the matter has been fixed for July 23, before Justice Mohammed

Idris, a vacation judge.

The defendants are INEC, the National Assembly and the Attorney-General of the Federation, Mohammed Adoke.

In the substantive suit filed in 2011, the plaintiffs - the NCP and one of its members, Mr. Agunbiade Tunde - are challenging the constitutionality of INEC's power to de-register any political party.

The plaintiffs had filed the application for injunction against INEC following publications of fresh threats to de-register some political parties despite its pending suit.

At the last proceedings

on July 10, 2012, Justice Okon Abang declined the request by NCP's counsel, Marcus Eyarhono, for the hearing of the application for the interim order.

Abang hinged his refusal to hear the application on the grounds that INEC's representatives and counsel were not present at the proceedings and that the seven days the electoral body had to respond to the application had not lapsed.

The judge refused hearing the application at the proceedings, though he acknowledged that INEC had received copies of the relevant court papers.