

# metro

... City, Crime, Courts

07068835954, 08114495302

## Pupils abandon school as Lagos claim 13

Deji Lambo

Development Area of Lagos State.

areas of Ikorodu.

**T**HIRTEEN suspected cultists have been killed in the ongoing clash between members of the *Egbe* and *Aiye* confraternities in the Ijeda Local Council

Residents told *PUNCH Metro* during a visit to the community that they were unsafe as the cultists freely use sophisticated weapons in the Luwasa, Igbe and Ijede

Nine of the thirteen deceased cultists were said to have been killed by members of rival groups, while the remaining four were allegedly killed by soldiers, who gave them a hot chase after

reportedly burning the family house of the Obateru of Egbin in Ijede.

A resident, Bayo Adegba, who stated that the frequent cult clashes were creating panic in the community, said two of the victims were pupils of a Junior Secondary School in the area, adding that other pupils had abandoned their studies due to the attack on the school premises.

He said, "In December, a cultist, Saheed, was shot in the mouth by rivals, but he was lucky to escape. After his wound healed, he and his gang had a clash with members of the rival group on Monday, January 20, 2020, and two of the cultists were stabbed in the stomach and chest. The victims were rushed to the health centre in Ijede, where they died the following day.

"In the early hours of Tuesday, some cultists used a machete to kill a rival in his house around the De-John School. I was going to work in the morning when I saw a crowd in front of the deceased's house. I saw the head with multiple machete cuts and bloodstains all over the wall.

"In the afternoon, two

pupils of the Luwasa Junior Secondary School were shot dead on the school premises. The school management had to send all the pupils home for their safety. That same day, around the Etita area in Ijede, another cultist was shot dead.

"Also, around the Ferry Station, Ijede, two cultists were riding a motorcycle when their rivals used a rod to push them down and shot them dead. Whenever the cultists clash, residents usually run helter-skelter, because they use sophisticated weapons. We are not safe in Ijede."

When our correspondent

visited the Luwasa Junior High School to confirm the alleged death of the two pupils, the principal declined to speak, but a source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the school did not lose any pupil.

The source, however, said cultists chased a member of a rival group into the school premises and shot him dead around 11am, while the students were studying in their various classrooms.

According to the source, the cultists took advantage of the fact that the school had no fence to perpetrate the crime.

"No pupil was killed. In Luwasa, Igbe and Ijede areas, cult clashes have been



• Ijede area

## FIRO board meets minister, NASU declares indefinite strike



• Onu

Samson Folarin



• Igwe

that Igwe had yet to complete his studies.

The ICPC later cleared Igwe, saying he duly obtained the certificate.

Last week Thursday, the FIRO workers began a protest, led by their labour leaders, to call for the suspension of Igwe in accordance with extant public service rules.

The protesters also accused Onu of shielding Igwe, as the latter was reported to have been frequenting the minister's office in Abuja since

Ibrahim Gwarzo, declined comment when contacted to confirm the meeting.

He, however, said steps were being taken to resolve the matter "as soon as possible." Our correspondent obtained a document signed by the General Secretary of NASU, Peters Adeyemi, criticising Igwe's refusal to respond to a letter requesting audience with him over the workers' grievances, including the issue of his PhD.

Adeyemi berated the FIRO management for lacking "courtesy."

"Therefore, by a copy of this letter, the branch committee of NASU has the approval of the union headquarters to embark on an indefinite strike action until the management yields to our request for a union/management meeting," the letter, dated January 20, 2020, read in part.

PUNCH

Daniels Igoni, Yenagoa

## Mob set ablaze suspe

**T**WO suspected robbers were at gunpoint at the Green Villa junction, could not be on Thursday, burnt to death Isaac Boro Expressway, in the An eyewit by an angry mob in Yenagoa, Biogbolo-Epie area of the state capital, simply as O Bayelsa State. They were said to have been set were trying It was gathered that the young ablate together with the vehicle they caught and men met their end after allegedly used for the robbery. Villa junc robbing some Point of Sale operators The identities of the two male adults Expressway

## cult clashes

ongoing and are still on as I speak to you. The cultists chased themselves into the school compound and killed their rival. The pupils were around when the killing took place," the source stated.

Members of staff of the school and officials sent by the state Ministry of Education to monitor the situation in the school were seen on the premises, but there was no pupil in sight when our correspondent visited the school on Wednesday.

When asked why the pupils were not in school, the source said, "What happened on the school premises was an extension of what has been happening in the community

for the past three days. As of the time they were evacuating the corpse of the murdered cultist, the police received a call that another person had been killed at Igbe.

"The parents are aware of what is happening; they probably told their children to keep away from the school."

Another resident, Enitan Ogunsanya, said five suspected cult members were killed in the early hours of Wednesday, adding that four of them were fell by soldiers.

"The cultists came for a reprisal at a pub in Idito around the family house of the Obateru of Egbin and burnt down the house. So, soldiers were mobilised to catch them and in the process, four of the cultists were killed, while the others escaped. Later on, another cultist, known simply as Something, was killed in Igbe. All these attacks happened in the night," Ogunsanya stated.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Bala Elkana, said 10 suspects had been arrested, adding that the Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, had deployed the Special Track

Force on Social Miscrea in the community to rest normalcy.

Elkana said, "The trou has been on since 2010. The cultists were given opportunity to renounce cultism and stop their attack on each other so that they could escape prosecution and since then, there was attack until recently."

"On January 20, 2020, some of the cultists were relaxing at their meeting point when they got into argument, which degenerated into a fight and one person was injured."

"So, members of the group thought the person had died and launched a counter-attack, which led to all these clashes from January 20. But the police quickly responded and 10 suspects were arrested."

"Those arrested were Ibrahim Jamiu, Abiodun Jimoh, Babajide Adeyemi, Godfrey Adewale, Olaleke Adebajo, Ibrahim Hassan Yusuf Sangesanya, Oluwalaye Omolaja and Olaide Sodipo."

"The CP has summoned an emergency meeting to resolve the cult clashes in the affected areas. The corpses recovered were those of six suspected cultists and we have no record of any pupil killed."



• Odumosu