

Cultists shoot rival dead in Lagos restaurant, suspects nabbed

Olamide Famuwagun

THREE suspected members of the Klansman Confraternity have been arrested by men of the Lagos State Police Command for allegedly shooting a member of the Eyiye Confraternity, Akinola Ayegbusi, to death at a restaurant in the Alapere area of the state.

PUNCH Metro gathered that normal activities were ongoing when the suspects, who were said to be on a revenge mission, trailed Ayegbusi to the front of the restaurant.

After spotting him, the suspects, who were armed with guns and cutlasses, allegedly shot Ayegbusi. In a bid to escape, the victim ran into the restaurant.

Thereafter, the suspects, numbering six, were seen in a video clip captured by the Closed-Circuit Television installed on the premises of the restaurant, shooting and using cutlasses to hack Ayegbusi till he died.

The attack threw the security guard, workers and customers, who came to patronise the



• The suspects restaurant into panic as they were seen in the video clip, running helter-skelter to escape from the crime scene.

The suspects left the

premises of the restaurant after perpetrating the crime.

A source, who spoke to our correspondent on Tuesday, said residents in the area alerted the

police after the suspects fled from the crime scene.

"The policemen from the Alapere Division quickly mobilised to the restaurant,

They evacuated the corpse and commenced investigation," the source said.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, SP Benjamin Hundeyin, in a statement on Tuesday, identified three of the suspects as Jamiu Rasheed, Emmanuel Samson, and Sheriff Module.

He said efforts were on to arrest other fleeing members connected to the crime, adding that the suspects would be arraigned at the conclusion of the investigation.

Hundeyin said, "Operatives of the Lagos State Police Command have arrested a suspected cultist, Jamiu Rasheed, 22, who was captured on CCTV on July 7, 2022, hacking and shooting to death, one Akinola Ayegbusi, a rival cult member at a restaurant in the Alapere area of Lagos State.

"Investigations revealed that Jamiu has been a member of Klansman Confraternity since 2017 and has participated in the killing of two other rival cultists. Investigation into the crime also led to the arrest of the armourer of the group, one Sheriff Module, 26, who was found with two locally-made pistols; and

one other cultist, Emmanuel Samson.

"Sheriff who was also part of the killing confessed that it was carried out to avenge the death of their leader who was killed by the Eyiye Confraternity on November 23, 2021. Efforts are ongoing to arrest other fleeing cultists.

Suspects will be arraigned at the conclusion of investigations."

Hundeyin said the state Commissioner of Police, Abiodun Alabi, called on parents and guardians, as well as traditional, religious, and political leaders to prevail on their children and wards, and the teeming youth population to stay away from cultism and other social vices.

Cult-related attacks and killings had been ongoing for a while in the Alapere area of the state.

PUNCH Metro had reported that rampaging cultists allegedly killed a father of three, identified only as Oluwale; a man, identified simply as Labalaba, and a yet-to-be-identified tricycle operator, in the Agboyi area of Alapere.

Landlords, residents and business owners in the area had

been calling on the Lagos State Police Command to mobilise

policemen to restore normalcy in the community.

Benue man destroys PDP billboard, blames alcohol

John Charles, Makurdi

A Chief Magistrate's Court sitting in Makurdi, Benue State, on Tuesday, convicted a 30-year-old man, Temenge Peter, for destroying a billboard belonging to the Peoples Democratic Party, in the Makurdi area of the state.

Recall that the Benue State Police Command arrested Peter for destroying the billboard at Wurukum Roundabout, in Makurdi, on Monday.

The prosecuting police officer, Inspector Kuegh Abugh, arraigned Peter in court on Tuesday.

During the court proceedings, the prosecutor told the court that the Publicity Secretary of the PDP, Bengba Iortyom, in company of the Chairman, Task Force on Illegal Motor Parks, Bobby Uper, arrested Peter while destroying the PDP campaign billboard at Wurukum Roundabout.

He noted that they subsequently took him to the State Criminal Investigation Department in Makurdi for prosecution.

However, Peter pleaded guilty to the charge and explained that he committed the offence under the influence of alcohol.

He begged the court to forgive him, saying his wife left him with a two-year-old baby girl to cater for.

The presiding magistrate, Kadon Ghasa, sentenced Peter to one month community service, adding he would be jailed for two months if he defaulted in carrying out the sentence.

The magistrate stated that the community service would be carried out around the premises of the court from 9am to 2pm for 30 working days.

Ghasa warned youths in the state to desist from the habit of alcoholism, mischief and engage themselves in useful ventures to secure their future.

Police kill Edo kidnapper