

have stepped up manhunt for other members of the gang.

Suspects

# 4 killed, others injured in cult clashes

BY CHRISTOPHER OJI

**Four persons have lost their lives and several others injured at the weekend when two cult groups clashed in Ogwashi-Uku in Aniocha South Local Government Area of Delta State.**

The clashes extended to Ubulu-Uku, a neighbouring town.

Investigation revealed that two cult groups engaged themselves in a battle of supremacy.

The hoodlums used guns, machets and other dangerous weapons against themselves. When the dust settled, three persons were killed while several others were injured.

*Crime Watch Today* gathered that one of the injured person was immediately rushed to a traditional bonesetter in a neighbouring town, Ubulu-Uku. The rival cult group

traced the man there and shot him dead. An eyewitness, Jones Nebem, told said: "We were taking fresh air when we started hearing gunshots. I ran inside my house and I saw people butchering themselves. It was the following day that we heard that three persons were killed and several others injured.

"We heard that one of the injured victims was rushed to a traditional healing home in a neighbouring town, Ubulu-Uku. He was traced there where he was shot dead."

Another eyewitness in Ubulu-Uku, Mark Isichie, said, "We were preparing for an early morning church service on Sunday when we heard gunshots. We heard people shouting for help. I ran to the spot and I saw the corpse of a man I was told that the cultists from Ogwashi-Uku traced him to the place and shot him repeatedly for about five times to make sure that he died."

However, fear has gripped the people of Ogwashi-Uku following the incessant armed robbery attacks believed to be perpetrated by cult groups.

Spokesman for the community, simply identified as Akaone, has sent a Save Our Souls (SOS) message to the Commissioner of Police, Usman Baba, to come to their rescue.

"We need intensive police patrol in Ogwashi-Uku. In the past, cultism was restricted to higher institution students but now, primary school pupils, secondary school students and artisans now belong to cult groups. They are everywhere if something drastic is not done, cult groups will overrun the entire community.

"Please, sir, we need police presence in Ogwashi-Uku. Many people have died during robbery operations and during cult war. I believe that the robberies and kidnappings are being perpetrated by cult groups.

**Man docked for allegedly faking**

**Police probe assault on politician**