

# Court remands father of slain boy in custody

From **Rose Ejembi,**  
Makaurdi

• Seven other suspects too

A Chief Magistrate's Court in Makurdi, Benue State, has ordered that the father of a slain boy, Mr. Okereke Adu-ma, whose son, Arugu, was shot and killed by suspected cultists and seven others, be reminded in prison custody for alleged conspiracy, illegal possession of fire-arms, criminal intimidation, theft and attempted culpable homicide.

The 60-year-old farmer, who broke down in tears, complained that those who killed his son had turned the table against him in court, saying those who were supposed to be charged to court for the murder of his son had turned him to an accused.

The other accused persons arraigned with Adama, were Okereke Omenka, Mike Oker-



• IGP, Arase

eke, Edeh Silas, Agwu Uche, Agwu Otoja, Ogbodo Aruma and Ezekiel Agwu from Oju Local Government Area.

The accused were arrested in April after two suspected cultists shot and killed Arugu (aka Kalu). After the killing, youths went on the rampage, burning the houses of ThankGod Ede and Edim Idah.

The police command

waded into the matter. During investigation, the force arrested two suspects over the murder, while the prime suspect, who pulled the trigger is still at large.

The case, however, took a new dimension as police later arrested the father of the slain boy and seven others, detained and arraigned them for alleged disturbance.

Prosecuting Police Officer, Sgt Hyacinth Gbakor, told the court that a petition was written on August 6 to the Inspector-General of Police by Humphrey Onyeukwu on behalf of ThankGod Ede and Edwin Idah, both of Oju LGA to report the matter.

The prosecution said the petition was endorsed by the IGP and

sent to an Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) for investigation.

The defence counsel, Mr Dogara Aboshi, did not oppose the application for adjournment, but also applied for their bail.

Aboshi prayed the court to apply Section 341 (2) and (3) of the Criminal Procedure Code in granting the bail application, arguing that their alleged offences were not capital.

The prosecutor, however, opposed the bail application, stressing that they would interfere with police investigation or jump bail.

The Chief Magistrate, Mrs Cecilia Bakare, ordered that the accused persons be remanded in prison custody. She fixed August 31 for ruling on the bail application.