

Cult clashes claim 5 in Benue

From **Rose Ejembi,**
Makurdi

AT least five people were reported killed by suspected cultists in Gboko and Makurdi Local Government Areas of Benue State, between Wednesday night and early hours of yesterday.

While four persons were said to have been hacked to death in Gboko Town, one other person was reportedly shot dead at the North Bank area of Makurdi, the state capital.

Sources from Gboko town disclosed that trouble started when two cult groups in the area engaged in a battle of supremacy which resulted in the said casualties.

One of our sources who simply gave his name as Tersoo explained that the war started last night between the two cult groups, and that by the time the dust settled, three persons were found dead at Gbar-Mkar in Gboko East.

Tersoo added that another person, a 21-year-old boy, whose name was given as Vershima Bendega, alias Ter Kwande, was also allegedly killed at his uncle's residence located at number 10, Iorky-aa Ako street, Gboko Cen-

tral, same day.

He said the development had thrown residents of Gboko into palpable fear as many shop owners kept their shops under lock, to forestall unseen circumstances.

He explained further that the corpse of his deceased nephew was later evacuated by the police and deposited at the morgue.

When contacted, the DPO

of Gboko A Division, CSP Nelson Iorhemba, referred Daily Sun to the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), at the state Police Command in Makurdi.

On her part, the PPRO, DSP Catherine Anene, confirmed the report in a short statement, saying three persons had already been arrested in connection with the killing.

Gunmen kill Imo lawyer, kidnap w

From **George Onyejiuwa,** Owerri and **Tony John,** Port Harcourt

THERE was palpable fear in Orlu town, in Orlu Council of Imo State, yesterday, as gunmen shot and killed a popular lawyer in the town, Darlington Odume.

It was reliably gathered that his assailants had trailed him to a supermarket at Umudara Amaifeke community, which incidentally is also the community of the late lawyer.

Odume, a member of the Orlu Bar Association, was said to have been called to Bar in 2017. It was learnt that the deceased lawyer was initially rushed to a hospital in Orlu, but the doctors had referred

him to the Imo state University Teaching Hospital and gave up the ghost on the way, as a result of excess loss of blood.

A reliable source told Daily Sun that there was panic and fear in the community of Umudara Amaifeke, in Orlu, following the assassination of Odume Darlington by gunmen.

The police spokesman for the state, Michael Abattam, confirmed the killing and added that the state Commissioner of Police, Rabin Husaini, had ordered a holistic investigation into the incident.

Also, gunmen, on Wednesday night, abducted a woman around Nkpolu junction, in Obio/Akpor Local Govern-