

# Gunmen Sack Market, Kill 6 as Police Arrest Assassins, Cultists in Benue

George Okoh in Makurdi

Gunmen yesterday raided Joota market at the border town between Katsina Ala Local government area of Benue and Taraba State killing six persons.

This is coming on the heels of the police arresting 32 suspected cultists, assassins and some armed robbers, prompting the Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr. Hyacinth Dagala to warn criminal elements to keep off the state or be made to face the full weight of the law.

According to an eye witnesses, the heavily armed men on arriving at the location, opened fire on the marketers killing six persons while

several others sustained various degree of injuries.

As at the time of filing the report, though the Police in Benue State have confirmed the attack, not many details were released.

Dagala also disclosed that two suspected cultists were Tuesday morning, hacked to death by rival cult members at the Welfare Quarters area of Mukurdi town. The duo were waylaid in their homes and killed in the presence of their family members.

He said the police had intensified its activities to rid the state of cultist who had posed serious danger to lives and properties in the state.

"We will not tolerate their activi-

ties and I can assure you we will bring anyone caught constituting impediment to safety of the state to book"

Meanwhile the state Police command have arrested Temungwa Gbermke, alias 2020 and his gang suspected to have killed the Assistant Superintendent of Police, ASP, Baba Ibrahim.

Also recovered from the gang were a red Toyota Carina car used in the operation that led to the death of the Senior police officers and over 20 assorted firearms and ammunition.

According to Dagala, "Amidst the grief of the killing of ASP Baba Ibrahim, crack detectives from the

State Criminal Investigation Department, CID Makurdi swung into action, traced the hoodlum to their hideout along Abaji-Amafu road in Katsina-Ala and arrested four of the suspects who committed the crime.

They include Temungwa Gbermke aka Vision 2020, Sarwuam Kyuun, Aondover Laav, and James Akuleagwu.

"Items recovered from them includes one G3 rifle with four rounds of live ammunition, one red Toyota Carina 11 vehicle with registration number XD 811 Makurdi, one unregistered Honda C50 Motorcycle and one power saw machine", he said.

## Two Kidnappers Arrested in Osun