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Four remanded for Ilorin cult killings

April 21, 2017 Biodun Oyeleye

An Ilorin Magistrates' Court has remanded in prison four suspected cultists over their alleged involvement in the recent spate of cult killings in Kwara State.

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About eight people were said to have been killed during the clashes which gripped Ilorin metropolis for about four days.



The incident, believed to be among rival cult groups, spread to areas like Egbeji, Ita-Ogunbo, Oyun, Ikokoro, Osere, Olunlade, Niger, Kilanko and Olufadi and created panic among residents. Most of the killings, except two, were said to have been carried out in broad daylight.

In most of the killings, residents said the assailants closed on their targets and shot them at close range. In some cases, they inflicted machete cuts on the victims.

The accused were arraigned for criminal conspiracy, being members of secret cult and unlawful possession of firearms contrary to Section 97 of Penal Code law and punishable under Section 14 of Secret Cult and Secret Societies (Prohibition) and Section 28 (1) of Firearm Act, Cap 146, law of Nigeria.

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According to the First Information Report (FIR) on the case, the accused were arrested by the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligent Department (SCIID) following a tip-off from well-meaning residents.

Some of the incriminating items found on the accused, according to the FIR, are a

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Mossberg pump action gun with the serial number P959695 and eight rounds of live cartridges allegedly used to carry out their dastardly act against members of rival group and innocent citizens during the recent clash in the metropolis

Although the accused pleaded with the court to grant them bail, the police prosecutor opposed the plea, saying they should be remanded in prison.

The magistrate, Muhammed Ibrahim, remanded the accused in prison and adjourned the

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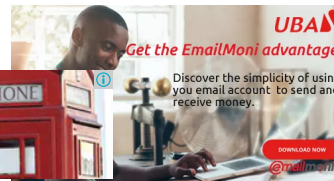
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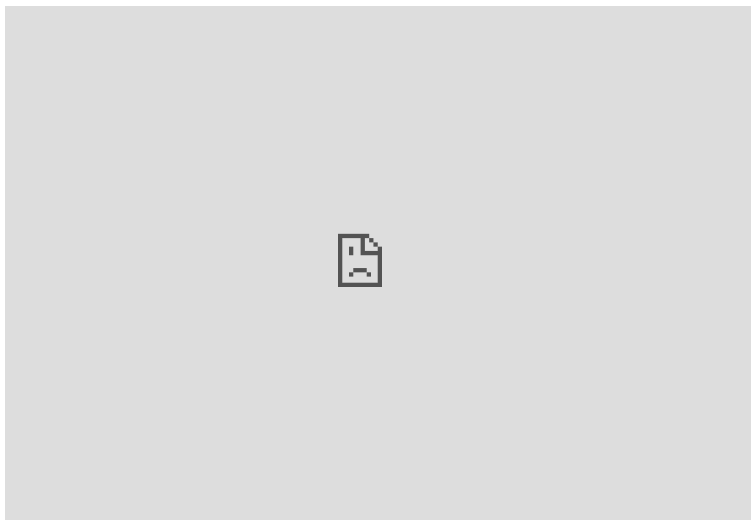
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