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METRO AND CRIME

Cult war claims three in Abuja con



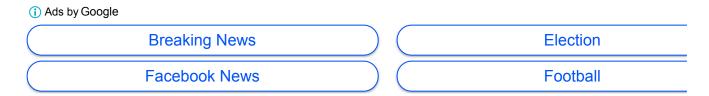


At least three people have been killed during a teenage cult war at Pigba-Apo, a settle Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Followi security situation, the residents also raised the alarm over continued clashes suspect have led to proliferation of illegal firearms in the area.

Investigation shows that three of the cultists were killed two days ago in one of the d clashes between some of the cult groups during a supremacy battle which has caused apprehension foe the residents.

One of the residents, Chukwuma Nmadubuike, said for the past three months, the co had been under the siege of the men of the underworld who, according to him, opera

day and night, sometimes robbing people of their valuables.

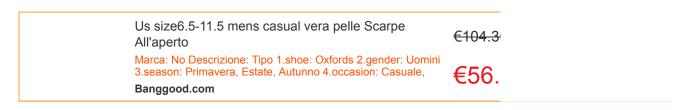


Nmadubuike, who confirmed the death of some members of the cult groups, said that the victims, popularly known as "Terry G," was killed in broad daylight by one of the kingpins, known as "Kolomental", after several rivalry clashes.

He also said that the incessant harassment and clashes of the groups was aiding prolifound of illegal firearms, as many of the residents and traders had resorted to self-defence.

"In the last three months, there has been panic in this area because of the activities of boys who are harassing people and also killing some members of other groups. Peopl leave home between 5a.m. and 6a.m. often fall victim to these boys who collect peopl phones and other items at gunpoint. "I have once lost my phone to them. If you look finger, you can still see the mark of the cut I sustained in the process of dragging the with them.

Two days ago, the whole of this Apo area was under serious tension, when one of the notorious gang leaders known as 'Terry G' was killed," he said. A crime officer in the Police Division, who pleaded to remain anonymous, confirmed the death of the cultis



He, however, said the police and other security agencies were on the trail of the cultisthe officer he was not aware of the proliferation of firearms in the area.

He said: "The police have not received any report of illegal possession of firearms. But does not mean that such situation may not arise. I can tell you that we are handling to security situation in Apo professionally."