

Cultists kill two rivals during shootout

Taiwo Jimoh

Two suspected members of Eiye confraternity have been killed during a clash with rival Aiye group at Mile 12 area of Lagos State.

The victims, identified simply as Akorede and Mallo, were said to have been shot dead by Aiye members about 11 p.m. on Wednesday.

It was learnt that the gunshot of the suspected cultists rend the air for about 20 minutes when they were chasing one another in the community.

But the death of the two suspected Eiye cult members has caused apprehension in the community.

A resident, Mr. Akeem Ademola, said they had been living in fear since the death of the suspected cultists.

He said: "I was in my apartment when I suddenly heard a gunshot. My family and I were afraid throughout the night. I immediately called my first son who was yet to return home to stay back wherever he might be.

"We have been battling with the issue of cultism in Mile 2 and its environs for long. Un-

fortunately, those who are killing themselves are young boys.

"This year alone, about four persons had died as a result of rival clashes. I want to urge the state Commissioner of Police, Imohimi Edgal, to beam his search light on Mile 12, Ajelogo, Owode Onirin, Majidun and their environs and get rid of the cultists who are causing havoc in the communities."

Another resident, who gave her simply as Biodun, said she was on her way home when she saw people running in different directions.

Biodun said it was when the dust settled that she heard that Eiye cult group had killed two Aiye members during a clash.

She said: "Unfortunately, before policemen from Ketu Division got to Mile 2 area, the suspects had disappeared.

"This is not the first time we are experiencing such a clash but not in this magnitude. Government should act fast because it is becoming unbearable. At slightest provocation they would bring out dangerous weapons and start attacking one another.

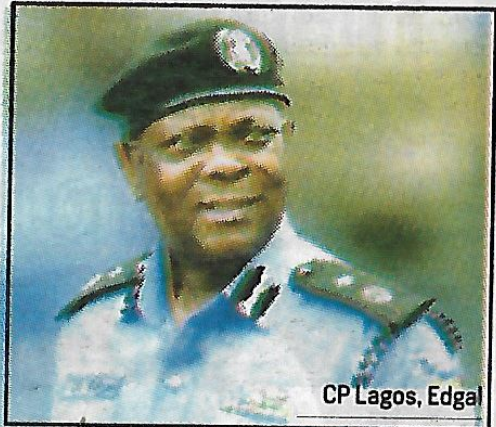
"I believe why this cult related issue is rampant in our area is because the hoodlums

have access to hard drugs in the neighbourhood. On the fateful day of the clash, some of us couldn't sleep. We were afraid that there might be a reprisal from the rival group."

The leader of the rival Aiye cult group, who led the operations, Amara, was said to be on the run.

However, a team of policemen was patrolling the community to prevent further breakdown of law and order.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), CSP Chike Oti, promised to get back to our correspondent.



CP Lagos, Edgal