

Crime

Cult war: Decapitated bodies litter Lagos communities

Taiwo Jimoh

April 18, 2019 was a bloody day residents of Olokonla and Ogombo communities at Abraham Adesanya area of Eti-Osa Local Government Area Lagos State, will never forget in a hurry.

On that day, the fragile peace, which had characterised the communities, shattered, leaving decapitated bodies on the streets.

On the day in question, a popular land speculator, Abdurasak alias Alfa Nla, was killed by suspected cult members.

According to residents, Alfa Nla allegedly used to be a cultist until he renounced the group and became somewhat godly, earning him the nickname Alfa Nla.

After leaving the cult group, he started doing everything humanly possible to stop cultism and cultists from taking over communities in Eti-Osa Local Government Area.

Alfa Nla's murder shocked residents to their bone marrows. Before his death, Alfa Nla had a team of youths under his wings. His untimely death caused them to be bitter and they embarked on reprisal the following day.

Before residents knew what was happening, dead bodies and severed heads were everywhere. Panicked residents, who didn't want to be caught in the cross-fire, started moving out of both communities.

The once peaceful Olokonla and Ogombo communities became killing fields.

The cult war was between Ewe and Awe groups. Four people were beheaded and their heads were dumped at Abraham Adesanya bus stop on Ajah-Epe Road, causing great panic.

Alfa Nla was believed to have been killed by cultists from General Paint dump site, Olokonla.

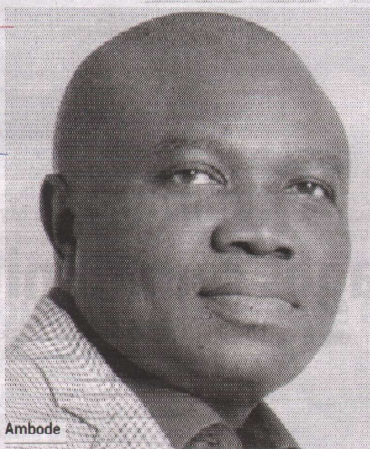
A resident of the area, who spoke with our correspondent under the condition of anonymity, said: "We have been indoors since the killings started."

He explained that the mayhem started on April 18, after Alfa Nla was killed.

The resident explained that Alfa Nla was one of the people in the communities who had been fight-



A victim



Ambode



Muazu

ing cultists and cultism.

He added: "There are shanties around those communities, where many foreigners, including Togolese live. These foreigners are mostly those involved in cultism. It is believed that those from the shanty communities killed Alfa Nla. He was killed after a minor issue. Since his murder, there has been no peace. Alfa Nla's boys reinforced and had been fighting youths from the shanty communities."

"The following day after Alfa Nla, three persons were beheaded by rival group. The group is from Saudi community. Saudi community is another shanty community in Eti-Osa. In the reprisal that followed, someone was killed at Olokonla. Policemen came on Friday after one of the clashes, but later left. Right now, we are living in fear. We were all scared and locked ourselves indoors. Killings have been going on for long."

Our correspondent, who went to these communities, gathered that the cultists, for reasons unknown, took to cutting off heads of their rival members during the clashes. Whenever they cut off a head, they would drop it beside the body.

"There was a third victim, but

a house in our community. I was sleeping when he called and when I woke up, I saw his calls. I was trying to return the calls, when another call came in. The caller told me that Alfa Nla had been shot by some cultists.

"I told the person that called me that they should rush him to the hospital. I was told he died on the way to the hospital as a result of blood loss. I was also told that one Mike, who was trying to save Alfa Nla, was also injured by the cultists."

Asked him which security measures have been put in place in both communities following Alfa Nla's killing, Ogunleye, said the residents enjoyed the support of policemen from Ajuwe and Ogombo police stations.

He said: "We also have local vigilantes patrolling the community from 7p.m. to 10p.m. on a daily basis."

Speaking about hoodlums living in General Paint dumpsite, Ogunleye described them as dreadful and daring people.

He said: "There was a time two of my generators were stolen. After much effort, they were traced to General Paint dumpsite community. It took the intervention of the Seriki of the Hausa before the hoodlums brought out my generators."

"I heard from a good source that the hoodlums sell human parts, cocaine and other hard drugs. Instead of policemen to flush them out, they would rather go there to collect money from them. The hoodlums always claim that the land was given to them by a 'white cap chief'. The Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Zubairu Muazu, should beam his searchlight on that community."

Exactly four days after Alfa Nla was murdered, soldiers stormed Olokonla, went to one of the shanty communities around there and pulled them down.

The soldiers were said to have stormed the two communities on the orders of the Landlords' Associations of Ogombo and Olokonla. The soldiers embarked on a demolition of some shanties, believed to be abode of suspected criminals and cult members.

One of the inhabitants of the affected shanty buildings, Mrs. Mariam Adediran, said the soldiers came into the community like thieves at night and pulled down their homes.

She said: "The soldiers came about midnight. We were asleep. They woke us up and ordered us to leave on our own accord or they would force us out."

"My husband and I were intro-

“I heard from a good source that the hoodlums sell human parts, cocaine and other hard drugs”

he was not beheaded," said another resident. "When people started moving out of the communities, some of us had nowhere to run to. We stayed behind. I have nowhere to run to. This is the only place some of us have. Three persons were killed in the community behind Lagos Business School. In that community, every form of crime you can think of, including robbery, takes place there."

When the corpses were counted, they were five; the lives of five youths extinguished like candles in the wind. The heads and corpses were left at different parts of the communities.

When the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) in charge of Operations was alerted about the matter, he immediately radioed Area J Command and other policemen. He instructed them to move into the communities and ensure the hostility was controlled. The police evacuated the bodies to mortuary.

The Baale of Ogombo Phase 2, Chief Lateef Ogunleye, said that he was still in shock after receiving the news of Alfa Nla's murder.

He said: "On the day he was killed, Alfa Nla called to inform me that someone wanted to build

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