

# Decapitated bodies litter Lagos communities

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duced into the community by a friend after he lost his job. When we got into the community, we built the house ourselves.

"We were still mourning Alfa Nla, when these soldiers came from nowhere. Right now, we don't know where to start to pick the broken piece of our lives. They demolished houses and shops."

After the soldiers were through with the first set of shanties, they moved to another, also leaving sorrow and tears.

Mrs. Comfort Oyedele, a victim of the second set of demolished shanties, said that she lost her shop and house. She cried that both makeshift buildings were pulled down without a notice from the soldiers.

"I was in my shop about 4p.m. when I saw about five soldiers patrolling the community. They asked us to leave. I asked the soldiers where they wanted us to go to. One of them told us that they were sent from Abuja to send those living in the shanties out of the community, because we were the ones harbouring cultists.

"I don't see why they should accuse us of harbouring hoodlums. I still don't know why the cultists killed Alfa Nla. On the fateful day, the deceased was with us when he saw some people wearing black shirts. They approached where he was sitting. He stood up and went to meet them. He actually wanted to know what they wanted. He didn't know they came to kill him.

"Before we knew what was happening, they opened fire on him. When they realised that bullets were not penetrating his body, they brought out machetes and

started cutting him. He fell down. We all scampered in different directions. It was after we returned that we were told that he was dead," Oyedele said.

Following the bloodbath at Eti-Osa communities, the police, on April 19, launched an investigation and arrested Saheed Lateef and Julius Augulere (20), both members of the Aiye confraternity, were arrested in connection with the case and they confessed to the crime.

"One axe with blood stains was recovered from them. The four corpses were evacuated and deposited in a public mortuary for autopsy. All the corpses had machete cuts. One of the corpses had a severed head, but it was not taken away. The command has launched a manhunt for other fleeing cult members."

Cultists are presently on the rampage and killing in every part of the state. Our investigation revealed that most cultists these days now display their conquests openly with tattoos signifying the number of lives they have taken during different operations. Many of them have an admirable mastering of different weapons.

These weapons are the tools they freely use in harassing, intimidating, burning, looting, killing and decimating not only members of their cult groups, but also helpless and hapless Nigerians.

The situation is so bad that each time these cultists strike; they leave in their trail, blood and anguish. Killings in areas like Ajegunle, Ajah, Mushin, Ojuelegba, Ikorodu, Lekki, Epe, Okokomaiko, among other have become routine. Most times, the causes of their clashes are often battle for supremacy.

In July, four persons were killed while four others were wounded when members of the Eiye confraternity numbering about 50, invaded Okoya, Ogungbe, Moshalashi and Aroworade streets, wielding dangerous weapons and destroying property of members of the communities about 3a.m.

Also, Yusuf Onifade (24) was killed by suspected cultists on February 14, at Bariga area of the state. His grieving mother, Muibat Onifade (52), said that the boy was killed in the most gruesome manner.

She said: "My son was killed on Valentine Day, February 14. I don't know why God didn't take my life and spared that of my son. With the death of Yusuf, my days are numbered. It is the death of my son that is going to kill me. I cannot cope without him beside me."

The distraught mother said she had been pregnant and had 10 babies, but they all died. Refusing to give up on having children, she kept trying and finally had five children that survived. Yusuf was one of the latter children. Among her children, Yusuf found a firm place in her heart because he was "generous."



Another victim