

Anambra Police Return to Duty Posts as Cult Killings, Armed Robbery Cases Escalate

David-Chyddy Eleke in Awka

There is a rise in cult and other criminal activities in Anambra State as police officers abscond from their duty posts due to the #EndSARS protest, which later turned violent.

THISDAY gathered that no fewer than 10 persons suspected to be members of rival cult groups have lost their lives in Awka, the state capital, since after the protest.

It was also gathered that last Thursday alone, no fewer than seven persons were gunned down at Amaudo, Amaenyi and other parts of Awka, sending panic among residents of the capital city.

However, the state police spokesperson, SP Haruna Mohammed, refused to react to the incident when his confirmation was sought.

A source, who spoke to THISDAY, said: "All the people killed are cultists, and they are being attacked by members of rival cult groups. It is true that armed robbery has also increased in the area, but anytime killings happen, it is cult-related.

"Elders of Awka community know the people doing this, and

from what I gathered, they have held a meeting to see how this can be stopped. The killings are only happening within the Awka villages, and have not extended to areas habited by visitors. But those cult boys, once in a while, go out of their way to rob shop owners. That is when they need money. But for killing, the person killed must be a member of a rival cult group."

Meanwhile, this reporter witnessed a dash between two youths, which would have resulted in death, save for divine intervention. Two youths, a bus conductor and a tricycle operator, were engaged in a physical fight when the tricycle operator disengaged from his opponent, reached for a sling bag he had over his shoulders and drew a locally made pistol. His attempt to gun down the conductor was futile as the trigger proved too stiff to be drawn after it was successfully corked.

It was gathered that most tricycle operators in the capital city of Awka are mainly cultists, while the prevalence of local technology has made it easy for them to access arms.