

ACROSS THE

Tension engulfs P-Harcourt over Sunday's cult killings

By Jimitota Onoyume

PORT HARCOURT—TENSION is still high in Port Harcourt following last Sunday's killing of about twenty persons by unknown gun men at different locations in Port Harcourt.

Yesterday afternoon, people ran helter skelter for dear lives at the Mile One market area over what they mistook for gun shots. When later they realized there was no threat of any kind many of the traders and buyers had to go back to their stores and wares to resume transactions.

Vanguard later spoke with some of them who took to their heels. "Sir, why will I not run when I saw people running. You know there is so much fear in the air", one said. "Me, I heard a sound like that of gun, and I did not see the need to confirm whether it truly came from a gun before I

took to my heels. I saw some of the corpses of those that died that Sunday so my brother you can at least imagine my mental state now", another said.

Meanwhile, appeals have continued to pour in for the state government to take the issue of security very primary. They said with the direction of things it had become clear that lives are no longer safe in the state.

"What we are seeing now is worse than hostage taking. Situations were people just come into the market and begin to shoot is really sad. Government must do something about the problem of cultism. In the past we heard they only go after their rivals but what we are seeing now is no longer so. Innocent people are their victims. It looks like the issue is beyond the police, so soldiers should be drafted to assist", many cried.