

Tension in Nsukka as cultists kill 3

By Tony Edike

ENUGU—TENSION has gripped residents of the academic town of Nsukka in Enugu State following clashes between members of suspected secret cult groups

which claimed at least three lives at the weekend.

Sources said the incident occurred last Friday when the suspected cultists believed to be operating in the University of Nigeria unleashed terror on some people also suspected to be members of a rival cult group.

Although the police quickly removed the remains of the victims and used white sand to cover the blood stains on the spot at one of the scenes of the clash, residents of the area who saw the blood are still living with the shock.

One of the victims, Olisa Ozioko, said to be a Computer Science Student, had his head severed from the rest of his body. The young man was also identified as a photographer who operated a video coverage outfit somewhere at Obuechara Junction in the town.

Curiously, his head was on display at a junction opposite the Freedom Square in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The assailants wrote a note indicating that the rest of the body could be found at Nru Junction.

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It was learnt that part of the written notice placed beside the head of Ozioko was a warning that the onlookers should beware of the Black Axe, a dreaded student secret cult group, a development that easily made people conclude that the incident was a case of clash of rival student cult groups.

Again, the circumstances under which two others died have thrown the residents and students into serious fears, as they were killed in a beer parlour at No. 2 Odobido street, Odenigbo in the town, a few kilometers from the university.

The two were killed few hours after Ozioko was slaughtered and those who followed the unfolding events closely believe the later attack could have been carried out as reprisal.

The remains of the beheaded victim were buried on Saturday at Obuechara village in the town after the family had reportedly obtained police permit to that effect.

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