

# Woman, two grandchildren burnt to death in Bayelsa

By Samuel Oyadongha

**YENAGOA—TRAGEDY** struck yesterday at Akaba community some distance away from the Swali suburb of Yenagoa when a 55-year-old woman and her two grandchildren were roasted to death following renewed cult clash.

The deceased woman identified as Emilia Awudu and her grandchildren aged between ten and six were said to have been locked inside their home by the warring cultists who poured fuel on them and set them ablaze over the alleged sins of her son, known as Bobo, said to belong to a rival cult group.

The incident, which occurred around 7pm on Saturday, left three houses burnt down, while many others were destroyed.

Also the house belonging to a swimming coach with the State Sports Council, Mr. Preye Smith-Apatu, and that of one Torueitein Okpotolomo were

vandalised during the rampage.

It was learnt that attempts by some members of the community to sought the help of the soldiers stationed close to Julius Berger yard in the neighbourhood proved abortive as security men were said to have closed an hour before the attack.

Some members of the community, who spoke anonymously, confirmed that the cultists were dressed in all white regalia and armed with sophisticated weapons with which they attacked anyone found in the community.

Speaking on the sad development, the paramount ruler of the community, H.R.H David Alfred, said the suspected cultist were said to have attended a wake-up in a neighbouring village and invaded the community with calls for indigenes to produce the son of the deceased woman and the president of the youths named Otavie Sakwe.