

Makurdi youths on rampage as Police kills man

BY PETER DURU

MAKURDI—CRISIS broke out in Makurdi, yesterday afternoon, when angry youths laid siege on the busy Makurdi-Otuko Federal highway after a trigger-happy police Sergeant, (names withheld) with the Benue State Police Command gunned down a middle-aged man, Aondowase Angu, at Kanshio area of Makurdi.

The incident created pandemonium in the state capital leaving residents, especially parents whose wards attend the elitists Tiny Tots Nursery and Primary School located in the area, scampering with their kids for safety while vehicular movements were also brought to a halt.

Vanguard gathered from the nephew of the deceased, Mr. Terfa Atile, that he and the deceased sat outside their compound when the police officer dressed in mufti attempted to trespass on their house.

Mr. Atile said the late Aondowase accosted the of-

ficer and urged him to stop the act which infuriated the Police Officer.

He was said to have left the scene without uttering a word only to return dressed up in his uniform and immediately pulled out a gun and shot the young man and thereafter took to his heels.

Aondowase was said to have been rushed to the Federal Medical Centre Makurdi, where Doctors confirmed him dead.

The brutal killing sparked angry reaction from youths of the area who burnt cars and property after barricading the Federal highway in

search of any uniform personnel for reprisal attack.

The mob also took to the burning of tires on the highway, and completely obstructed the flow of traffic.

Benue State Police Commissioner, Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed, described the killing as "barbaric".

Man with 86 wives, 190 children alleges threat to life

BY WOLE MOSADOMI

MINNA—THE case of the controversial octogenarian with more than 86 wives and 190 children in Bida, Niger State, Alhaji Bello Masaba, has taken a new dimension as he has raised an alarm over threat to his life and that of members of his family by some faceless people.

He also accused the police, particularly the Area Commander in Bida of not giving him adequate security.

This alarm came few days

after most of his wives, children and other family members were denied registration in Bida town during the just concluded voters' registration exercise.

Speaking with journalists in his Bida home yesterday, Alhaji Masaba said he had been receiving anonymous text messages from different callers threatening to take his life and wipe off members of his family.

He said he was not taking the threat lightly, and that an official letter would be written to the state Commis-

sioner of Police on the development and officially demand for protection.

Alhaji Masaba explained that he had not done anything contrary to the law or infringed on anybody's territory that could warrant threat to his life and that of members of his family.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Michael Zuo-kumor, in his reaction, said Police was not aware of threat to Masaba's life, just as he described the role of the police in the unfolding events as neutral.