

# Police arrest 8 over cultism, killing of UNN student

By Emeka Mamah

**E** NUGU — THE police have arrested eight people over alleged murder of a student of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, UNN, identified as Emmanuel Joseph. Five of the suspects were alleged to have participated in the murder of Joseph while three others were charged for belonging to a secret and illegal society.

Those arrested were said to be members of a cult group who reportedly killed their victim during a

reprisal attack.

These were contained in a statement signed by the state Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Superintendent Ebere Amaraizu last night.

Amaraizu's statement read in part, "No fewer than five persons believed to have hands in the recent killing of a student of the UNN identified as one Emmanuel Joseph and wounding others have been arrested by the police.

"The leader and the suspected mastermind of the dastardly act identified

as one Onyedineke Ezenwa alias Onyeze was arrested alongside four others of the same cult group recently, based on the intelligence information after the clash which claimed one life and wounded others believed to be members of another rival cult group.

"The suspects were later arraigned before the Magistrate's Court, Ogrute, in Enugu State magisterial district, presided over by Magistrate Ozo Okolie on March 31, 2017 on a -two count charge of conspiracy and murder.

"The case was later adjourned *sine die* while three others who were separately arraigned on a two - count charge of conspiracy and allegedly belonging to an unlawful society, contrary to Section 8 of the Public Order (Prohibition of Secret Cults and their Activities) Law No 3 of 2009, (Enugu State of Nigeria 2004) as well as Section 495(a) of the Criminal Code Cap 30 Vol. II, Laws of Enugu State 2004, were granted bail to a reliable surety after taking their pleas and also adjourned for further hearing ...

"Meanwhile, the state police command is warning members of the public particularly the youth to shun any act capable of exposing them to the menace of cultism and other vices, pointing out that cultism is an envelope containing many crime like murder, rape, robbery,

kidnapping, car snatching among others.

"The command further advised that members of the public should identify with the campaign of the command which is known as Police campaign Against Cultism and Other Vices, POCACOV, which is geared towards driving down constantly in the minds of the public, the evil effects of cultism in the society and its inherent

dangers.

"The command has intensified its campaign against cultism and other vices through sensitisation programme, community engagement visit to all schools and towns as well as relevant media programmes on the dangers of cultism and other vices with a view to freeing our youths from the shackles and evil effects of cultism and other vices.

## 267 suspected criminals arrested in Abia

By Anayo Okoli & Eric Ugbor

**U** MUAHIA—ABIA State Police Command has in the past eight months arrested over 267 suspected criminals who are involved in various heinous crimes in Umuahia, the state capital, Aba, the commercial hub and other parts of the state.

The state commissioner of police, Mr. Adeleye Oyeade, who disclosed this yesterday while briefing journalists at the state police command in Umuahia, also stated that the command recovered 32 arms, 188, ammunitions, 40 vehicles, 15 motorcycles/tricycles while 15 kidnapped victims were rescued,

He stated that 134 of the suspects were arrested for armed robbery, 29 for child trafficking, 26 for

kidnapping, 18 car snatching, 7 burglary, murder, 4 rapes, vandalism, 24 cultism and 8 fraudsters.

He reiterated the resolve of the command in sustaining the peace enjoyed in the state and working assiduously to ensure that Abians sleep with their eyes closed and pursue their daily activities without fears or threats.

He stated that the command has set up tactical response squads well equipped to combat heinous crime across the state stressing that the squad will be ready in two weeks time after undergoing intensive training.

Mr. Oyeade explained that the state government has indicated interest to assist in the funding of equipment, logistics and adequate motivation to ensure that the special unit performs maximally.

## SARS storm MASSOB away commander, 4 others

to release our abducted members'

police to release their members or they would carry out protests that would paralyze business activities in the state.

According to the source, two motorcycles were removed from the MASSOB office by the policemen during the operation, while other properties worth thousands of naira were allegedly destroyed.

It was gathered that two hours after departure with those arrested, the SARS team returned to the scene to make more arrests but met severe resistance from the MASSOB members which prompted the team to retreat and come back with a reinforcement of soldiers who on arrival with three Hilux vans loaded

with soldiers, could not see any of the MASSOB members.

Reacting to the development, the Anambra North Zonal leader of MASSOB, Emmanuel Omenka said: "they should not take our non-violence posture for weakness and I must warn that after 48 hours and our security man and others are not released, we will ground business activities in Onitsha and environs".

According to Omenka, "we do not know where they have taken our five members to. The police took two of our motorcycles and ransacked our office and even invited the soldiers to help them kill us".