

2 Cultists kill 16 in Anambra, 35 in Police net

By Vincent Ujumadu

ANAMBRA State Police Command said, yesterday, that suspected cultists killed 16 persons in the state in two weeks.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Garba Umar, while parading 35 suspected cultists at the Police Headquarters in Awka, decried the growing activities of secret cults in the state.

The ages of the arrested suspects, according to Umar, ranged between 20 and 34 years.

He added that apart from cultism, the suspects engaged in other forms of criminal activities such as robbery, extortion and burglary.

He gave the names of the ringleaders of the arrested suspects as Chukwudi Machie, 34; Chukwudi Igwegbe, 32; Onyeka Ibanugo, 28; Ifeanyi Anazodo, 28, and Chukwuemeka Nwokoye, 32.

His words: "The suspects confessed that they are members of Black Axe and Vikings fraternities. They have a direct link with the ongoing cult activities in Awka and the alleged murder of several persons."

"In the past few days, activities of secret cults in the state had taken an alarming dimension, following a fierce battle of supremacy between rival cult groups leading to loss of lives and wanton destruction of properties."

Items recovered from the suspects, he said, include one AK-47 rifle, one English Beretta pistol, two locally-made double-barreled pistols, one single-barreled short gun, 15 rounds of 7.62 live ammunition, three cartridges and a red Toyota Matrix with

number plates No EKY 879 EN snatched from one Evbadolovi

Omorogbe in Benin, Edo State.

... Calabar cult war body count rises to seven

By Emma Una

SEVEN persons suspected to be cultists have so far been reported killed in the renewed supremacy war between two rival cult gangs in Calabar, which started on Sunday afternoon.

The war was sparked when one of the cultists, who was attacked in April, returned after treatment and decided to go on retaliation by killing the leader of the gang suspected to have attacked him. The killing spree left five persons dead on Monday.

The incidents happened at Okon Inok/Ediba, Ekondo, Atekong and Mayne Avenue, as rival gangs hunted members of the other group and mauled them down with guns and machetes.

A resident of one of the hotbeds,

who pleaded anonymity, told *Vanguard* "last night at about 9p.m., some boys in a red golf car chased a young man around my street at Akparika and he was shouting that he did not belong to any group."

They did not listen to him; they caught up with him and forced him into the boot of the car."

She said the killings were becoming too many, as the cult groups now attack any suspected member of a rival group without confirming the identity of the person.

The killings have brought nightlife in the city to zero level, while many suspected cultist are believed to have fled the city to hide in villages and other towns.

Bloodbath between Navy, private guards averted

By Evelyn Usman

A clash between private guards attached to Topline Security and Navy personnel was averted, yesterday, at Idi-Mongoro area of Atlas Cove, Lagos.

The armed private guards contracted to secure the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, pipelines, threatened to engage the naval personnel from the Nigerian Navy Ship Beecroft, in a shootout and as well blow up the Island, on sighting the latter approaching.

The matter was about who takes custody of 3000 jerry cans filled

with petroleum products that were recovered from suspected vandals at Atlas Cove.

While the Navy accused the guards of conniving with vandals to siphon petroleum products around that axis, the latter claimed they impounded the products from vandals at the weekend, adding that they were loaded in five vehicles at the time of arrest.

But for the intervention of the Commander, NNS Beecroft, Commodore Okon Eyo, who led the naval personnel, the situation would have been bloody.

Abugu, Gov Ugwuanyi's CPS, dies

By Dennis Agbo

3-yr-old daughter