

Cultists kill 6 students at Ekpoma varsity graduation p

By Alemma Aliu & Gabriel Enoghola

BENIN—TENSION mounts at the university town of Ekpoma, Esan West Local Government Area of Edo State, following the killing of no fewer than six students of Ambrose Alli University by suspected cultists.

An unconfirmed report, yesterday in Benin, disclosed that the students were killed at a graduation party at Ihunmudumun quarters of the town, by persons suspected to be secret cult members.

Vanguard gathered that the target of the gunmen escaped and in anger they shot at those sitting by him including his girlfriend, who was said to have come to celebrate his graduation with him from Katsina State, where she is undergoing the mandatory National Youth Service Corps, NYSC, scheme.

A reprisal attack, yesterday, led to the killing of one person whose body was found in a well, but it is yet to be confirmed which cult groups were involved in the killings.

Meanwhile, the school has concluded its second semester examinations.

The casualties

Three of the dead persons were former students of the institution, invited to the graduation party, while others just concluded their final examinations.

A source in the local government said the dead were four males and one female, while two others were critically injured.

Among the dead were a final year medical student known as Dr. Chibudum Einstein, and a postgraduate student identified as Ose Abulu, said to be the son of a former chairman of the local government.

It was gathered that the suspected killer is a student that earlier fought with another student at the party venue and was said to have angrily walked out after his shirt got torn, but returned with his friends to commit the havoc.

A professor in the university, who pleaded anonymity, confirmed the incident but said it happened outside the campus.

Vanguard gathered that the shooting occurred in a nearby bar operated by an ex-banker (name withheld), where the victims relocated to after the altercation at the party.

Dean of Student Affairs reacts

However, Dean of Students Affairs of the university, Professor Don Akhilomen, told Vanguard in an interview that although the shooting incident did not happen within the institution's campuses, the authorities were yet to identify

those that were killed.

He said: "We heard that some people were killed at Ihunmudumun area of the town, while at a graduation party. We are yet to identify those involved. Some may be our students, some might not be. So, we are still watching the situation."

However, the state's Police Public Relations Officer, Chidi Nwabuzor, said two persons were

Mob sets robbery suspect ablaze in

By Jimitota Onoyume

WARRI—ATTEMPT by robbery suspects to snatch a tricycle at Estate Roundabout, Okumagba Avenue, Warri, Delta State, was foiled on Tuesday night, as one of them was reportedly set ablaze.

Eyewitnesses disclosed that the robbers were caught when the owner raised the alarm that attracted the mob. One of the robbery suspects was caught and set ablaze by the mob, while two others ran away, but were later arrested by the Police.

According to some eyewitnesses,

Train crushes policeman motorcyclist in Lagos

By Esther Onyegbula, Monsuru Olowoopejo & Jane Echewodo

A police officer identified as Inspector Philip Kolo, and a yet-to-be identified commercial motorcyclist were, yesterday, morning crushed to death by a train at PWD Bus Stop, Ikeja, Lagos.

It was learned that the *okadaman* sighted the train, which was en route Ijoko, Ogun State, but in an attempt to navigate the rail track in a hurry, his motorbike got stuck and the train met them.

When Vanguard visited the scene, the mangled bodies of the victims and their properties were scattered along the rail track.

Vanguard gathered that traffic officers deployed on the axis by Nigerian Railway Corporation, NRC, had urged the *okadaman* to wait, but he refused.

The late Inspector Kolo, attached to Inspector-General of Police Monitoring Unit, Force Headquarters, Abuja, was in Lagos on official duty when the incident occurred.

Eyewitness account

According to a fruit vendor, who was at the scene of the incident, "the incident occurred this morning (yesterday) at about 9a.m.

"The *okadaman* carried a policeman on his bike. While other vehicles and pedestrian stopped near the rail for the approaching train, the *okadaman* and the officer, who were obviously ignorant of why vehicles were stopped, rode into the rail track. Unfortunately, they

killed
inju
Poli
inve
Ac
was
mur
kille
inju
"So
arre
start

the n
of re
in th
"M
robbe
this
teach
away
gave
Th
Com
Mul
arres
two
He
a m
one
Polic

were
deat
At
Lago
and
Safe
alrea
and
dece
Co
Publ
Afol
pers
He
earl
han
Lago
LAS
Al
the s
Polic
Oti,
this
rece
train
Phil
mot
the r
"T
the
MU
Abu
inve
"F
a co
Age
acci
"T
repe
whi
dep
Mon
"T
beir
Poli