

Cultists Kill 5 in Akwa Ibom

By Chioma Onuegbu

UYO—ABOUT five persons have been allegedly killed in Urua Ekpa community, a neighbouring town to Uyo, Akwa Ibom State capital, following a clash between two rival cult groups in the area.

It was gathered that the cult clash which started on Tuesday night continued yesterday morning between members of two cult groups.

Some residents alleged that three persons were killed on Tuesday while two were allegedly shot dead as the clash continued yesterday.

Although the cause of the rampage could not be established as at the time of filing this report, however, sources from the area alleged that the two groups were fighting over a girl.

An eyewitness who spoke to newsmen yesterday on grounds of anonymity said: "At about 9p.m. on Tuesday when I was returning home from the market, I heard a gunshot down the street and I thought it was a motor tyre that burst. But after sometime I heard another gunshot. It was when I heard the second gunshot that I knew something was wrong.

"And few minutes later, I heard people screaming and running for safety and because these cult groups were shooting sporadically. In fact since yesterday this whole area has been under serious security threat, we couldn't sleep last night (Wednesday). Three persons including one of our neighbours were killed during clash."

Another resident and an artisan, who simply identified himself as Mr. Akpan, expressed concern over the violence situation that claimed the lives of some people.

"I can confirm to you that two persons have died on this our street. I was preparing to come to my shop this morning (yesterday), when a group of young men started chasing one of the residents of this area. They later caught up with him down the street, where they mercilessly murdered him," Akpan narrated.

Some of the residents also lamented how they lost their valuables ranging from hand phones, hand bags, jewelries, and

even cash as they ran away from the rampage.

However, the Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Odiko MacDon could not be reached to comment on the matter as he did not respond to calls made to his

telephone.

However, newsmen observed the presence of policemen around the area yesterday afternoon, who may have been deployed to restore peace and order to the community.

10 die in fresh herdsmen attack on Benue community

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—NO fewer than 10 persons were feared dead in a fresh attack on Tseforeleegeb, Babai council ward of Guma Local Government area of Benue State by suspected herdsmen.

However the State Police Command said it recorded five deaths in the attack.

Vanguard gathered from a source in the area that the marauders who stormed the community in a commando fashion in the late hours of Tuesday from neighbouring Nasarawa State, attacked the community shooting sporadically and killing anyone in sight.

According to the source, "the invaders also burnt down houses, huts and farmlands in the community. As we speak the people who were taken unawares are moving in droves out of the community to neighbouring villages and Daudu for fear of being killed."

Confirming the development, the Guma local government council

chairman, Mr. Anthony Shawon disclosed that the attackers came in from neighbouring Nasarawa State.

He said, "10 persons were killed in the attack and the village has been razed. My appeal is that the personnel of the military Operation Whirl Stroke, OPWS, should be drafted to Ukpiani village to create a buffer between Benue and Nasarawa state in the border area to check the attacks because that was where they came from."

Confirming the development, the Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Deputy Superintendent, DSP, Catherine Anene, said the Police recorded five deaths in the attack noting that security had been beefed up in the area.

On his part, Field Commander of OPWS, Major General Adeyemi Yekini, said the force was investigating the circumstances surrounding the attack.

Police kill 4 robbers that shot NYSC members in Delta

By Perez Brisibe

UGHELLI—FOUR suspected robbers reported to have shot three members of the Nigeria Youth Service Corps, NYSC, have been killed by a combined team of policemen and local vigilante in Kokori, Ethiope East local government area of Delta State.

Confirming the incident yesterday, a member of the vigilante team said the hoodlums and other flying members of the gang had been terrorizing residents of Isiokolo and environs with

security operatives being on their trail for the past few days.

The source who spoke on condition of anonymity, said: "A combined team of security operatives made up of the Police and vigilante, was able to trail the hoodlums to Kokori after embarking on a robbery operation, leading to the exchange of gunfire.

"Though three members of the vigilante sustained gunshot wounds, at the end of the gunfire, four of the hoodlums were killed."