

2 killed, 2 injured in Anambra, Delta communities' cult clashes • Suspected robbers shoot one in Lagos

By Bose Adelaja,
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RENEWED cult activities at Okija in Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State have reportedly claimed one life while another is in a critical condition in the hospital.

No fewer than five persons had lost their lives in the community under similar circumstances since November last year.

Only last week, the head of a young man was cut off in the presence of his aged mother and taken away by suspected cultists.

Vanguard gathered that the latest victim, who hailed from Umuatuegwu village, was hit by a stray bullet while the rival cult groups were firing at each other.

A source at Okija said the groups had created tension in the area as they have continued to harass each other at the busy Nkwo Okija market.

The source said: "As I am speaking, there is a commotion at Nkwo market and the disturbing thing is that these boys are using the opportunity to extort money from people.

"Those who refuse to give them money usually have their cars torched. The development has forced many people to hurriedly leave the market for their houses."

According to him, the new Divisional Police Officer, DPO, and Divisional Crime Officer, DCO, have been deployed to the area, adding that the expectation was that they would return normalcy to the town.

Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr Tochukwu Ikenga, said he was yet to get the report of the incident.

One killed as cultists go on rampage in Delta community

Another violent clash between rival cults claimed one life and another inflicted with bullet wounds at Ekakpamre community, Ughelli South Local Government Area, Delta State.

The clash, which began Monday night, continued yesterday, as the deceased was killed at about 4 am.

A source said: "Presently, there is tension in the community. Shops have been closed down and people can barely move around."

Contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Bright Edafe, confirmed the incident, saying the Divisional Police Officer of the Otu-Jeremi divisional headquarters had led his men to restore normalcy to the community.

He disclosed that the police were on the trail of those behind the killing. He, however, could not confirm if the incident was cult-related.

Suspected robbers shoot one in Lagos

Also, scores of commuters, yesterday, scampered for safety at Carwash bus-stop, Lagos State, as some suspected robbers opened fire on a commuter around 6.10 am outward Third Mainland Bridge.

An eye witness said the victim was with some of his colleagues awaiting a staff bus when the

unfortunate incident occurred.

It could not be ascertained if the gunshot led to his death.

A commercial driver, Adeyinka Abdulkareem, said he was about dropping passengers at the bus-stop when he witnessed the incident.

He told our correspondent that the suspected robbers were four in number and all were dressed in blue/black T-shirts when they arrived at the bus-stop.

At press time, the spokesperson, Nigeria Police Force, Lagos State Command, CSP Muiyiwa Adejobi could not be reached.

Police arrest alleged others in Delta

By Festus Ahon

ASABA—A 35-year-old alleged serial rapist, Michael Ovie, was yesterday, arrested by the Delta State Police Command at Oghara, Ethiope West Local Government Area of the State.

It was gathered that the suspect, who is also a motorcycle rider, specialised in picking young girls at night as passengers, divert them to the bush, rob them of their belongings and forcefully have carnal knowledge of them after threatening them with a dagger.

The command in a statement by its acting Police Public Relations Officer, Bright Edafe, said it also arrested one suspected cultists and one illicit drug dealer, adding that it rescued a kidnap victim.

Edafe in the statement said: