

3 die, residents flee as cult groups clash in Osogbo

By Shina Abubakar

O SOGBO — SOME residents of Kolawole area of Osogbo, Osun State have abandoned their homes as a cult clash in the community claimed three lives.

One Afeez (a.k.a Eja), whose mother sells fish, was killed at Obalende area. One Sogo Owonikoko (a.k.a Marley) was killed at Alie junction while a young man identified as Daniel was shot on the head at Kolawole.

Traders also abandoned their shops for fear of reprisal attack as the streets were also deserted at press time.

An eye witness at Alie junction, Ibrahim Abass, said some young men on a motorcycle attacked a middle-aged man on the head with a cutlass.

"We all took to our heels and after about five minutes they went away on the motorcycle leaving the almost lifeless body in a gutter at the junction. When we returned there, the man was still breathing faintly before policemen came to evacuate



The deserted Kolawole area.

the body," he said.

Meanwhile, another source at Kolawole, who confirmed the Alie junction incident, Bosun Olodo, also said one Daniel was shot on the head by two men on a motorcycle around 8:30 am.

He said: "Just as we were returning from Alie junction, we heard a gunshot but before we got to the scene, two young men on a motorcycle with a gun sped off. We then discovered the body of Daniel

between two buildings lying dead.

"The boy was returning home with one Gbenga when the unknown assailants shot him for reasons we don't know yet.

"As you can see people have all run away; shop owners in the area have returned home, including food vendors. The community reported the incident to the police and a patrol vehicle was used to evacuate the body from the

community.

"We do not know the reason yet, but we heard Daniel just started following the leader of Aye confraternity before the incident."

It was gathered that one Afeez Eja was also killed at the Obalende area as the Eye cult group was said to be avenging the death of Sogo, who was said to be murdered by suspected Aye members.

However, Osun State police command spokesperson, Yemisi Opalola, only confirmed the killing of Sogo Owonikoko.

According to her, the deceased's wife, one Nafisat Owonikoko, reported at a police station that her husband, Sogo was killed.

"Sogo was a suspected leader of Eye cult group and was shot dead by rival Aye members at Obate area on Sunday morning. Detective visited the scene and evacuated the body to the morgue of UNIOSUN Teaching Hospital, Osogbo," she said.

Meanwhile, at press time, no arrest has been made and no police was seen at the scenes of the incident.