

ensure the safety of lives, property

Gunmen invade A-Ibom community, kill one

●As youths kill two, set one ablaze in retaliation

By Chioma Onuegbu

UYO—A young grocery shop owner, identified as Ecole, was Sunday night killed by suspected gunmen that invaded Mbiabong Itam community in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

It was gathered that the victim died in an undisclosed hospital where he was rushed to after he was shot in the head by the suspected robbers.

Irrked by the invasion and shooting of the young man, other youths of the community with the help of the vigilante team went after the robbers and apprehended two members of the suspected robbery gang.

A resident of the town said the apprehended suspects were killed and the minibus used by the robbers set ablaze.

Another source in the town revealed that one other member of the gang was arrested and kept in the village town hall where he was interrogated by the villagers.

The source added that the arrested gang member was later set ablaze when news filtered in that the shot Ecole had given up the ghost in the hospital he was rushed to.

A community source, who spoke on condition of anonymity said: "The gunmen, about seven in number, drove into the village

in a minibus and made their way directly to Ecole's shop at about midnight on Sunday.

"They started packing things into the waiting van before Ecole rose from sleep and tried to resist them. And in the ensuing struggle, one of them shot him on his forehead. He was rushed to a hospital in Uyo Local Government Area where he died."

Newsmen gathered that the whole community gathered at

the town hall to watch the armed robber before he was set ablaze with a tyre on his neck.

It was gathered that about four other members of the armed gang, however, escaped.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Odiko Macdon, said he was yet to be briefed on the incident, saying: "Such incident has not been brought to my table. But I will make some inquiries."

FCT police arrest suspected cultists, foil plot to snatch car

By Kingsley Omonobi

A three-man cult gang operating along Lungu axis of Galadima in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja has been arrested by police operatives of the FCT Command while preparing to attack some residents.

The suspected cultists stated that they had carried out several robbery operations within the city.

FCT Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Yusuf Mariam, named the suspects as James Oche 22 years; Promise Richard, 21 years, and Emmanuel Moses, 27 years.

Exhibits recovered are: one locally fabricated gun and one knife.

She also revealed that police operatives from Mabushi

Division foiled an attempt to snatch a vehicle along Nicon Junction.

"In a prompt response to a distress call by the victim of the car theft, the police operatives on duty gave the suspects a hot chase and recovered the vehicle. However, the three-man car snatching syndicate engaged the operatives in a gun battle.

"Consequently, one of the suspects sustained gunshot injuries and was taken to the hospital where the doctor confirmed him dead while the other two fled.

"Exhibit recovered are one black Toyota Corolla with number plate, RBC 802 BJ. Effort is in top gear to arrest the fleeing suspects. The suspects will be arraigned in court upon conclusion of the investigation."