

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022



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Community clash: Court sentences 11 persons to death by hanging in Niger

•Police arrest 11 in Delta community

By Wole Mosadomi &
Ochuko Akuopha

THE Minna High Court Number 6, yesterday, sentenced 11 persons to death by hanging for killing seven people during a communal clash in Anfani community in Lavun Local Government Area of the state.

Twenty-five suspects were in 2019 arraigned before the Minna High Court for their involvement in killing the people in Anfani community.

The court, however, discharged and acquitted 15 others charged with them.

They were charged and found guilty of the nine-count charge levelled against

them while 15 others were not found guilty.

Justice Maimuna Abubakar, who presided over the case, said the prosecution counsel had proved the charges against the 11 accused beyond reasonable doubt and, therefore, sentenced them accordingly.

She averred that there were no substantial shreds of evidence preferred against the other 15 suspects and were discharged and acquitted.

Office of the Attorney-General through the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions, DPP, had arraigned the 25 accused over a land dispute.

Police arrest 11 in

Delta community

Meanwhile, Delta State Police Command has confirmed the arrest of 11 persons over Sunday's clash by rival cult groups, which led to the killing of five persons in Agbarho community, Ughelli North Local Government Area, Delta State.

The command, in a statement by its Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Bright Edefe, said the state Commissioner of Police, Mr Ari Ali, had directed the command's Anti-Cult Unit Dragon Patrol Teams and Police operatives from Agbarho Division "to proceed to the said town to ensure that sanity is restored in the community.

"Consequently, the DPO, Agbarho

Division, Sam Ogwa, led the teams deployed on intelligence-led operation during which 11 suspected cultists, who actively participated in the cult clash that led to the death of five persons, were arrested and two pump action guns, one cut to size locally-made gun, eight expended cartridges and 10 rounds of live cartridges were recovered.

The situation has been brought under control and more patrol teams have been deployed to forestall any further breakdown of law and order in the community.

Manhunt for the other fleeing suspected cultists is ongoing.

Gunmen shoot