

NEWS

3 Killed In Bayelsa Cult Clash



A Nigerian Police Officer

By Bassey Willie

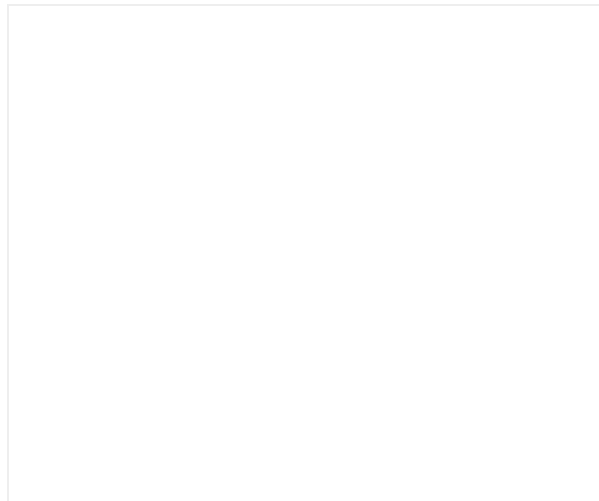
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Three people were shot dead on Sunday in a renewed cult clash at the Igbogene axis of Yenagoa, Bayelsa State capital.

Daily Trust gathered that two cult groups, Greenlanders and Boboos, are fighting for control of the area.

Two weeks ago, a 30-year-old man, simply identified as Ebi, was beheaded by suspected members of the Bobos cult group at the Yenegue axis of Yenagoa, Bayelsa State capital.



Ebi was said to be a member of the Greenlanders.

The latest clash is said to have already claimed no fewer than six lives.



Residents of the Igbogene community told Daily Trust that the clash, which erupted in the early hours of Sunday, has thrown the community into panic as gunshots were heard in different parts of the area.

Residents reportedly fled their homes for safety while business activities were abruptly halted.

Though the identities of the victims were still sketchy, many were said to have sustained severe injuries during the clash.

A resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, described the incident as “a continuation of the disturbing cult-related violence that has plagued parts of the state in recent weeks.”

Community leaders are said to be making efforts to appeal for calm, while urging youths to shun violence and embrace peace.

Meanwhile, residents have called on the state government and security agencies to take proactive measures to prevent further bloodshed in the area.

Police spokesman in Bayelsa State, DSP Musa Muhammad, who confirmed the latest cult clash, said an investigation has commenced, and efforts are on to track down and arrest the fleeing suspects.