January 9, 2026 by Uja Emmanuel, Makurdi

Five cultists, bandit killed in Makurdi

Three persons were killed yesterday during a suspected cult clash in Wurukum, Makurdi, the **Benue State** capital.

The deceased are Mr Hundred, Martins Dagba (aka Wonder) and Aondoaseer Yisa (aka Poka).

In a separate operation earlier the same day, operatives of the Jato-Aka Division responded to a clash between two rival cult groups, identified as Red and Black, which left two persons dead and several others injured.

Chairman of Makurdi Local Government, Joseph Keffi, condemned the killings.

Addressing the communities where the clash took place, the Special Adviser to the Chairman of Makurdi Local Government on Security and Political Matters,Terhide Beetseh Mark, extended its condolences to the bereaved families and communities mourning their loved ones.

He assured them of the chairman's firm commitment to ensuring peace within the region. He stated that the local government is working with security agencies and stakeholders to intensify efforts aimed at strengthening security across the local government.

He further emphasised the chairman's commitment to rebuilding communities, enhancing security, and promoting sustainable development across the local government.

Benue Police Command has confirmed the incident and said investigation has started.

Also, the Police Command has confirmed the killing of a notorious bandit during a gun battle with operatives in Ukum Local Government Area, following an attempted kidnapping.

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In a statement yesterday, the Police Public Relations Officer, Deputy Superintendent of Police Udeme Edet, said the incident occurred about 11:43 a.m.,on Wednesday, after a report that some bandits had been sighted around Channel Two, Zaki-Biam, with plans to abduct a hotelier.

Operatives attached to the Ukum Division were deployed to the location, the statement said, adding that the bandits opened fire on the patrol team upon, prompting a gun duel.

“The police responded with superior firepower, during which one of the bandits sustained gunshot injuries,” the statement said.

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Items recovered from the suspect included a local Beretta pistol, two rounds of live 9mm ammunition, and a bag of charms.

The injured suspect was rushed to the General Hospital in Zaki-Biam, where he was confirmed dead.

The deceased was later identified as Terkaa Samuel, described as a notorious bandit from Jandekyula in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State.

The police said additional patrol and tactical teams had been deployed to the surrounding areas to track down other bandits who escaped during the encounter, some of whom may have sustained gunshot wounds.

Eight suspects were arrested in connection with the violence, while items recovered include a local pistol, an expended cartridge, two axes, and two machetes. The injured victims were taken to nearby medical facilities for treatment.

The state Commissioner of Police, Ifeanyi Emenari, reassured residents of the command’s commitment to safeguarding lives and property.