

# Ondo poly student shot dead by cultists

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Ondo State Commissioner of Police, Mr Adebowale Lawal. Photo: Nigeria Police Force

By Dayo Oyewo

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A student of Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, identified simply as Peter, has been killed by suspected cultists in the Opomulero area of Owo, Ondo State.

*PUNCH Metro* learnt that the incident occurred on Sunday.

A source in the community told our correspondent on Monday that the assailants stormed the area in the evening while searching for suspected rival cultists.

The source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, citing security reasons, said they reportedly located Peter at his residence and shot him in the process.

“We received a call yesterday evening that Peter was shot by some guys believed to be cultists. We were told that they pretended to be visitors, called him out of his apartment and shot him at point-blank range. He struggled to stay alive before he was rushed to the hospital,” the source explained.

Another source, who did not want his name in print, told *PUNCH Metro* that the deceased, also known as Don P, lost his mother three weeks ago.

“Peter was still mourning the loss of his mother, who died three weeks ago before this unfortunate incident,” the source disclosed.

An anti-cultism advocacy platform, Naija Confra, in a post on Monday, stated that the violence reportedly began last Thursday during a birthday celebration by Eiye cult members.

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According to the platform, an altercation allegedly broke out after an Eiye leader ordered the assault of a female student, leading to a confrontation with Buccaneers members present at the scene.

The situation later escalated into a series of reprisals between the two groups, resulting in the attack on Peter.

“The incident began last Thursday inside RUGIPO, when Eiye cultists were playing their cult songs loudly to celebrate their member’s birthday. The Buccaneers were at the location. During the gathering, the Eiye leader (Ibaka) called a female student, who refused to come. He then instructed another Eiye cultist named Smally to slap her, which he did.

“After this incident, the Buccaneers left the area, but one remained. An Eiye cultist later told the Buccaneer to go and greet the Eiye leader, but the Buccaneer refused. He was then attacked, and his phone was destroyed. Buccaneers later retaliated by attacking some Eiye cultists, destroying and seizing their phones. Eiye then retaliated by killing Peter last night.”

The contact number found on the school's website rang out when dialled. A text message sent to it had yet to be responded to as of the time this report was filed.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Olushola Alayande, could not be reached, as calls made to his telephone line were not responded to. A text message sent to him had yet to be replied to as of the time this report was filed.

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The incident adds to the list of suspected cult attacks in the state.

PUNCH Metro reported in January that a man identified as Nasiru Isiaka was reportedly killed in a cult clash that occurred in Owo town, Owo Local Government Area of the state.

**| Dayo Oyewo**