

Rival cults clash claims 3 lives in Benue

From **Scholastica Hir**, Makurdi

A bloody clash between suspected rival cult groups has left three persons dead and several others injured in Agwan Jukun, Makurdi, the Benue State capital.

The incident, which threw residents into panic, occurred on Sunday evening around 8 p.m., forcing residents to flee their homes, while business activities in the area were abruptly halted as shop owners shut down for safety.

A witness, who did not want to be named for security reasons, said the attackers stormed the community in a coordinated manner, targeting specific individuals.

"They came into the area around 8 p.m. and moved straight to their targets. It was clear they knew who they were looking for," the source said.

According to the resident, one of the victims was killed along Market Street, while others were attacked on Wukari Street. The killing, he noted, was an organised cult attack.

"The way they operated showed they were not just random attackers. It looked like they came from outside the community but had insider information about their targets. There are usually people within who monitor movements and pass information to these groups.

"The attack created fear in the community, especially around the market area near a small mosque, where tension remained high. People are scared to go about their normal activities. Many have fled their homes, and businesses are still shut," he said.

He also raised concerns over possible reprisals, as some youths were reportedly seen brandishing weapons on Monday morning. "This morning, some young men were moving around with weapons, saying there would be retaliation. You can feel the fear in the air," he added.

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