

1 killed, 3 injured in Bayelsa cult clash

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From **Femi Folaranmi**, Yenagoa

The Bayelsa State Police Command has confirmed the arrest of 10 suspected cultists along the Obele end of Ovom in Yenagoa, the state capital, over their alleged involvement in a deadly cult attack that left one street-corner metal scavenger dead and three others injured.

The State Commissioner of Police, Iyamah Daniel, said the suspects were arrested during a raid launched after the command received a distress call from residents of the Obele area, who reported that armed cultists were on the rampage, shooting indiscriminately and dispossessing people of their phones and other valuables.

Investigations revealed that the suspected cultists carried out a nighttime raid on residents of Obele, robbing them of their phones and other valuables.

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However, the attack was resisted by a group of street-corner metal scavengers, prompting the suspected cultists to open fire on them. One of the scavengers later died from gunshot injuries sustained during the attack, while three others survived with varying degrees of injuries.

A resident said: “The boys were on a massive raid. Many residents were caught unawares, while others fled into their houses for safety. The metal scavengers, however, resisted handing over their phones, and this infuriated the cult boys, who started shooting. One of the metal scavengers later died in the hospital from a fatal gunshot wound, while three others survived.”

CP Daniel reiterated his call on residents to remain vigilant and cooperate with law enforcement agencies, stressing that active community participation is crucial to intelligence gathering and crime prevention.

He assured residents that those responsible for the Obele attack would be apprehended and made to face the full weight of the law.