

Cultists kill NDLEA officer, 7 others



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A uniformed officer identified as official of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) operative and seven students of the Ambrose Alli University (AAU), Edo State were yesterday killed in a bloody cult clash between rival groups at the main campus of the university at Ekpoma.

The bloody clash which has left the entire Ekpoma community in fear was said to be between the *Eiye* confraternity and the neo-black movement popularly known as *Black-Axe*.

In a swift reaction, the Edo State police command said it has

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already arrested five persons and is seriously on the trail of others involved in the mayhem.

Daily Champion gathered at the university campus that the NDLEA officer was shot in the head while in company of three other colleagues at the university town where they went to effect the arrest of a student known to be a dealer of Cannabis (Indian hemp).

Report said the other seven students were shot dead as a result of information that filtered to the other rival cult group that one of the cult groups led NDLEA officials to arrest its member.

As part of effort to ensure that peace return to the Community, the Edo State Police Commissioner Mr Hassan Bala has ordered a deployment of three units of armed mobile policemen to the town and seven persons who sustained injuries in the clash were rushed to the hospital.

It was gathered that the incident which took place at the early hours of yesterday caused

tension and forced residents of the town indoors.

Source within the community told *Daily Champion* that four students were reportedly hacked to death at Ujoelen area and one was shot at Iruokpen town.

Confirming the incident, the Edo State Police Commissioner, Mr. Bala Hassan said, "the fight is between the *Eiye* confraternity and the *Black Axe*. Some people have been killed while we have rushed some to the hospital. I want to tell you that the situation has been brought under control. The Area Commander in charge of that area is monitoring the situation and we have dispatched mobile policemen to the area. Five of the students have been arrested and I have ordered that they should be brought to Benin for prosecution".

"The police is still investigating the matter. We are also aware that an NDLEA officer was shot dead where they went to effect the arrest of somebody who deals in

cannabis. What happened was that when they got to the place, four of them, when the boys saw them and brought out a pump action and shot the man dead. But I want to assure you that he will be prosecuted according to the law. We have put every thing in place to douse the tension in the area.

"We are on top of the situation. We advise residents of the area to be calm and we are also asking the students to go back to their classes. We are effecting arrest and anybody arrested would be prosecuted."

When contacted, the Edo State Commissioner for Education Mrs Elizabeth Edomwandagbon expressed shock over the incident and asserted that "I have not been informed. Please let me call the Vice-Chancellor and find out what is happening. This is madness and I want to assure you that the state government will ensure that all those involved in these dastard acts are dealt with".

The Public Relations Officer of the university, Mr Chris Adamaigbo also confirmed that