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15 dead as cult war erupts in Benin

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Cult war erupted again in Benin, the Edo State capital at the weekend leaving at least 15 people dead and several others injured. Although the cause of the clash said to be between Aiye and Black Axe confraternities is unknown, impeccable sources hinted that the battle was a spillover from College of Education, Ekiadolor near Benin City where cult rivalries claimed two lives recently.

So far police sources have confirmed eight casualties and six persons on danger list at different hospitals in the city. Investigation, however, revealed that Ogida and Useh quarters were the worst hit, recording a death toll of at least seven within six hours since Friday.

The rampaging youths who, at various spots, shot their victims with reckless abandon, it was learnt, traced some of their victims to their family houses where they brutally killed them before the watchful eyes of their parents.

The serial killings forced men of the Ogida police station to hire a private vehicle in the task of evacuating corpses of the cultists that littered the area on Friday when the station patrol van broke down in the process.

As the fight raged through Thursday and Friday nights with sporadic gunshots which sent residents scampering for safety, police spread their dragnet to halt the mindless killings.

The dusk had hardly settled when one Erokpadame Asemota and two others were shot dead. Confirming the incident Police Public Relations Officer ASP Peter Ogboi, described it as unfortunate. He said men of the command had swung into action to arrest the situation.

It will be recalled that a similar bloody cult war between Black Axe and Maphite confraternity reportedly claimed over 15 lives last March in Benin City.

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