

# 5 killed in Benue cult clashes

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**A**t least, five people have been allegedly killed in two separate clashes involving rival cult groups in Benue State.

Our correspondent gathered on Thursday that four of the deceased were hacked down in Gboko town of Gboko Local Government Area while the remaining one which brought the number of deaths to five was

killed at the North bank suburb of Makurdi, the state capital.

Residents said the Gboko incident occurred between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning when two cult groups in the area engaged themselves in a supremacy battle over control of the vicinity.

It was learnt that three of the deceased were killed Tuesday night at Gbar-Mkar in Gboko East while the fourth person, a 21-year-old, was killed at Gboko Central in the early hours of

Wednesday.

A neighbour of the fourth deceased narrated that he heard loud sounds around 1:00am on Wednesday and when he peeped from his room, he saw over 20 hooded 'boys' with machetes and axes hitting somebody on the ground.

The witness added that after the armed men certified the macheted person dead, they went from one door to another while they robbed residents of their money and handsets.

"When we came out later, we saw that the person killed was macheted severally. He is a student of Akperan Orshi Polytechnic, Gboko," the witness said.

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Catherine Anene, confirmed the incident, adding that three suspects had been arrested in connection with the crime.

"Incident confirmed and three suspects arrested in connection with this case. Investigation is still in progress," Anene said.