

Pandemonium as hoodlums kill vigilante commander in Edo

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There was pandemonium in Ekoshodi community, near Benin City, as hoodlums suspected to be cultists reportedly killed the vigilante commander in the area.

It was gathered that the late vigilante commander identified as Osagie, was reportedly shot at a Keke Napep Park located along the Benin - Ore express road in Ovia Northeast Local Government Area of Edo State.

Daily Trust also gathered that Osagie's death created tension in the area as the security network and elders in the community banned the churches' crossover night service for December 31st, 2023 for fear of more violence.

In a one-minute, 44 seconds viral video seen by *Daily Trust*, a man in a handcuff suspected to be the killer of the vigilante commander was seen entering into the back of a Toyota Hilux van accompanied by the police.

In the video, a man

believed to be a member of the vigilante was heard saying, "You killed the commander, you have the guts to kill the commander. This man is supposed not to live; if I see this man on the street again, I will drop my cap."

Meanwhile, Osagie's murder is coming a week after Ogiso community vigilante commander in Oredo Local Government Area was killed in similar circumstances on Christmas Eve by hoodlums suspected to be cultists.

A source said the cult groups may be targeting vigilante commanders as they are alleged to be hindering their operations in their renewed cult clashes in the state.

Meanwhile, the Edo State Command spokesperson, Chidi Nwabuzor, has confirmed the incident.

He said the wife of the deceased told security operatives that he was traileed to his compound in a black vehicle and was shot on the head by his assailants.

He declined comment on the arrest, saying he wouldn't want to jeopardise police investigation.