

Eight Feared Killed In Benin Cult Clash

From **Alemma-Ozioruva Aliu**, Benin City

IN a renewed rivalry after a brief break, eight persons were feared dead around Ogida quarters in Benin City following a clash between rival cult groups believed to the Eiye Confraternity and Black Axe. Eye witness accounts said four persons were shot dead at about 2 pm on Thursday along Eweka Street.

Members of the deceased's cult group were said to have embarked on a retalia-

tory mission to Uwelu quarters and left three people dead while another person was said to have been shot dead around 1 am yesterday at Igbinadu Quarters.

There were also reported shoot-out between the groups at Bendel Street in the same area yesterday. When *The Guardian* visited the area, it was deserted. But armed policemen were seen patrolling the streets.

The state police spokesman, Peter Ogboi could not be reached yesterday but a senior police

officer, while confirming the incident, said seven persons have been arrested in connection with the clash. He said the police were already investigating the cause of the renewed hostilities with a view to bringing the perpetrators to book but it was gathered yesterday that the police hierarchy was planning a meeting with some leaders of the rival cult groups. "We are already on it, some arrests have been made to help us in our investigations", he said.