

Edo Cult War Records More Deaths

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AT least three more persons have been reported dead in a renewed cult war between two rival cult groups in Benin City that has been on for five days now in the Edo State capital. .

As at Thursday, four persons were reported killed, while six were reported missing in Iyowha Quarters. .

But The Guardian gathered that the bodies of the two out of the three reportedly killed were retrieved from a popular private hospital along Ekenwan Road yesterday morning. .

The deaths were said to be the result of a failed peace initiative called between the leadership of the rival groups. .

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Benin branch, has agreed to provide pathologists to carry out an independent autopsy on a farmer, Samuel Imaikop, and three labourers alleged to have been shot dead by men of the Nigeria Police Force in Benin on November 24, last year.

The autopsy, which would be carried out on Monday, January 6, is a result of the consent of the Police to take the pathologists to the site of their burial for exhumation.

The Coroner's Court in Benin had ordered the police to exhume the bodies of the four, said to be victims of extrajudicial killing, for autopsy to determine how they were killed. .

It would be recalled that in December last year, the Network on Police Reform in Nigeria (NOPRIN) instituted investigations into the alleged killing of 42-year-old Imaikop, a farmer, along with three labourers he hired to work on his farm on November 24 by officers of the state Police Command at the Benin by-pass.

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