

TheMet

Cult members allegedly behead one in Ebonyi, villagers launch reprisal attack

From **Charles Otu**, Abakaliki

MEMBERS of a dare-devil cult group yesterday beheaded a 26-year-old man, Edeh Onyebuchi in Amokwo Ngbo, Ohaukwu Local Council of Ebonyi State.

The Guardian learnt that two houses in the area were already up in flames following a reprisal attack by some angry youths, who razed homes of some suspected cult members from the area.

A source, who was at the scene of the incident, Friday Ali, told *The Guardian* that the deceased was hacked around 6:00p.m. at his family residence.

"We heard several gunshots and before we could realize what was going on, we saw the lifeless body of our brother. They cut off his head before fleeing our village," said Ali, who further confirmed that the victim's lifeless body had been deposited at the Ngbo hospital mortuary.

He said the matter was formally reported to the police and they were on the trail of the cult members.

Confirming the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ebonyi State Command, DSP Jude Madu, said the police were alerted by a caller, who raised the alarm that the area was boiling.

"I quickly called the DPO

of Ohaukwu and he informed me that he had already put off flames from two houses burnt by some angry mob. It was alleged that the cult members murdered one person.

"An arrest was actually made. The DPO and his team arrested one 21-year-old Elom Uchenna and another 20-year-old Ituma Oliver. The said Ituma mentioned one Agwu in his confessional statement as the person who killed the victim.

Investigations are still ongoing and the police are doing their best to bring the perpetrators to book," the PPRO stated.

While warning Ebonyi youths to renounce cultism and refrain from violence, the PPRO said the new CP is determined to crush out criminal elements from the state.



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