

Two Killed In Asaba Cult Clash

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Two persons are reported dead, with an unspecified number of others seriously injured, following renewed fighting between rival cult groups which took place at the weekend in Asaba, Delta State.

Though details of the incident are still sketchy, the state's commissioner of police, Udom Ekpoudom, however, confirmed that two persons were killed, as a result of the clash.

Female Aspirant

Ekpoudom, lamenting the incessant cult clashes in the town, which he attributed to the activities of land speculators, vowed to arrest persons behind the mayhem in the next 24 hours.

He decried the growing cases of cultism in the city, wondering why the trend, akin to what obtains in the nation's institutions of higher learning, should find its way into the city, noting that the root cause of the matter might not be unconnected with the activities of land speculators in the city.

The police commissioner

had, early in the year, fingered some unnamed big men as been responsible for the menace, but informed that some of those 'big gurus' were arrested and charged to court but they used their influence to get bail from the court.

Spokesperson of the state police command, Miss Okuwobi Olabisi, confirming the incident to Daily Independent said, "all hands are on deck, the area commander, the CP and all the stakeholders in Asaba have been called to a closed door meeting today. Definitely at the end of today the out come of the

meeting we will start giving it out."

A police officer and several other persons were stabbed and wounded with about three buildings destroyed when a similar incident took place in the state capital in May this year.

Police authorities in Asaba had on November 24, 2005 arraigned 22 suspected members of a cult gang, arrested in the wake of a similar unrest in the city, on a two-count charge of conspiracy and breach of the peace, before an Asaba chief magistrate's court.