

Cult War Claims Two Lives In Bayelsa

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AT least two lives were lost on Wednesday night in Oka-ka community in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. Two warring cult groups engaged selves in a gun battle that lasted over four hours.

Identities of the deceased could not be ascertained at press time.

The war which generated panic and tension among residents of the area also resulted in gun injuries on over 10 suspected cult members believed to have gone into hiding where they are receiving medical treatments.

Inhabitants of the community could not sleep due to the sound of the gunshots

that rent the air during that fight.

Eyewitness account told *Daily Independent* that the cause of the battle might not be unconnected with the usual supremacy war between the rival groups.

When our correspondent visited the scene of the incident on Thursday morning, pellets littered on the dusty ground as residents were seen discussing in groups.

Some policemen were also spotted patrolling in the vicinity.

So far, no arrest has been effected by the police.

A resident and civil servant living in the area, who pleaded anonymity, called for the presence of the police and operatives of the Joint Military

Task Force (JTF) in the area.

He urged security operatives to get rid of cult members and other criminal elements residing in the area.

According to the resident, security has been very porous in Amarata as all sorts of persons with questionable background squat in it.

Cult wars have claimed several lives in Yenagoa in recent years.

When contacted, Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Solomon Omoemin (ASP), confirmed the incident, but said a victim was rushed to the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Yenagoa, where he died later.

Omoemin disclosed that the police authorities are still investigating the matter.