

Cult war claims four in Edo

By Francis Onoiribholo
Bureau Chief Benin

NO fewer than four persons were allegedly killed in parts of Benin City in the last three days over reported clash between members of two rival cult groups believed to be members of "Elye" and "Aye" (Black Axe) Confraternities.

This is coming just as suspected hoodlums on Tuesday night attacked a reporter with The Nation Newspapers in Edo State, Ben Ogbemudia along Eke Street near St Saviour, Upper Sokponba Road in Benin City.

Ogbemudia who spoke to Daily Independent in his hospital bed said he packed his car along the street near his residence during the New Year eve activities only to be subsequently summoned by an unknown person to repack for free movement of vehicles.

According to him, I had repacked my car in the sandy street when the suspected assailants in a Nissan Ammera marked Edo DGE 382 AA comprising of three suspects identified simply as Emwanta, Adult and Osaretin attacked me and inflicted a deep machete cut on the upper arm of my left hand.

He was later rushed to a private clinic where the cut were stitched and later

reported the incident at St Saviour Police Station.

Reports also had it that the cult war which ravaged the Edo State Capital was said to have started near Oba Market over issues of ticketing between members of a task forced alleged to have been engaged by the state government and another group in the same area believed to have been engaged by Oredo Council. The members are said to belong to rival cult groups.

As at the time of filing this report, witnesses confirmed that three persons, one in Erumwense area off Ekenwan Road, another by Lucky Way in Upper Mission road and a third near Ogbe area and another near Ogida area were reported to have been felled by the cultist's bullets.

It was gathered that one of the dead people just finished his Masters Degree programme from the University of Benin while a community leader from Iyowha near NIFOR has reported that six persons were missing in the area.

When contacted on Thursday, Edo State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Moses Eguavoen, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) said he was expecting briefing from the DPOs in the affected areas.



• A watermelon

NDLEA

By Patience Ogbodo-Iwu
Correspondent, Bauchi

THE National Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Bauchi State command arrested 221 suspects in different related drug offences in the state in 2013.

This was disclosed Thursday by the commander of NDLEA, Mr. Para Julius, while addressing a conference in Bauchi. The performance reviewed by the commander