

# 1 Feared Dead In Rival Cult Groups Clash In Ebonyi

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One person has been feared dead while several others who sustained various degrees of injury are said to be receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital in Abakaliki, the Ebonyi State capital, following a clash between two rival cult groups.

The clash between members of the cult, who are students of Urban Secondary School, Okpaugwu, Abakaliki, Abakaliki local government, caused pandemonium in the state capital and environs.

An eyewitness, who spoke with LEADERSHIP on the condition of anonymity, said the cultists who were wielding weapons including machetes and axes, barricaded the road leading to the school and chanted war songs.

"Some of us, including some students were still in school as the examination was still going on across the state while many others who have finished their exams had already left the school. We saw some stu-

dents with dangerous weapons rushing towards our school and everybody including teachers and students had to escape for their dear lives," the witness said.

Narrating further, he said, "Immediately I saw them coming and shouting "where them, where them," instead of staying to know what was happening, I ran away because other teachers had left. Our principal later contacted mobile policemen who came immediately.

"We later gathered that the suspected cult boys attacked one student with an axe outside the school environment and left him in a pool of blood, though it was not clear if the student died at the spot. We also gathered that other students also received machete cuts and were rushed to an undisclosed hospital by their fellow students."

When contacted, the Ebonyi State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Chris Anyanwu said the matter was yet to be reported to his office.