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CULTISM: Renewed Clashes Claim 12 Lives In Edo

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— Apr 29, 2015 12:00 pm | 0 Comments

No fewer than 12 persons are feared dead at different locations in Benin City, the Edo state capital, in bloody renewed cult war between rival groups.

LEADERSHIP gathered that the clash between members of Eiye confraternity, Black Axe, and Maphite group intensified, recording higher casualties.

It was gathered that trouble started after a disagreement over the beating to death of a member at a polling centre in Benin during the April 11 state assembly elections, resulting in a reprisal attack which later spread to other part of the metropolis.

Yesterday's killing which occurred around Second East Circular and New Lagos Road also claimed the life of a 27-year-old barber.

When our correspondent visited his store, the victim's blood was visible all over the place.

A 70-year-old wood seller, Mrs Philomena Evbuomwan, who witnessed the barber's death, said the gunmen shot their victim in the head and chest and ensured that he was dead before they left.

Evbuomwan added that she was threatened by the gunmen, who pointed a gun at her.

She said, "I was selling wood when Patrick greeted me. I later sat with him. Suddenly, three boys walked towards us.

"One pointed a gun at my head and later dropped it. He shot Patrick; the other one also fired a shot. The third person took his gun and tapped Patrick. When he saw that he was dead, they ran away. After that, I fainted."

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