

# Stray Bullet Kills Female Trader As Cult Clashes Escalate In Bayelsa

By **Okem Mbah** 1 day ago News



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A tragic turn of events unfolded at Swali Market in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, as a stray bullet from a suspected cult clash claimed the life of Mrs Christiana Onoakpoma Rose, a trader from Delta State.

The incident on Monday has sparked fear among residents and traders, who now worry about their safety in the marketplace.

The Bayelsa State Police Command confirmed the incident, with the spokesperson, Musa Mohammed, stating that the suspected cultists involved are currently being interrogated while investigations are ongoing. He assured the public that a thorough investigation is underway to bring those responsible to justice.

Recent weeks have seen a surge in cult-related violence, with reports indicating that over five people have lost their lives in clashes between rival groups.

The persistent violence has left many questioning the effectiveness of security measures in the state.

Observers and security analysts have expressed concerns that the growing menace could spiral out of control if urgent action is not taken.

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A Swali resident, Mr Nicholas Odoko, also called on relevant authorities to implement stricter measures to curb the activities of cultists before more lives are lost.

Some critics have accused the police of handling the crisis with leniency, alleging that officers have focused more on negotiating peace among cult groups rather than taking

decisive action to dismantle their operations. They argue that the government must adopt a zero-tolerance policy against cultism to restore law and order.

Meanwhile, market traders and residents of Swali have expressed concern over the rising insecurity, urging Governor Douye Diri's administration to intensify efforts in tackling cult-related violence. They also called for an increased security presence in public areas to prevent further bloodshed.