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Barber, others shot dead in Edo cult war

Posted by: Osagie Otabor, Benin in News Update 21 hours ago

A 27-year old barber simply identified as Patrick was on Tuesday morning shot dead at his shop along New Lagos Road in Benin City, the Edo State capital.

The killing of Patrick was witnessed by a 65-year old wood seller, Philomena Egbuomwan.

Over 12 persons have been killed in a renewed cult war in Benin City and environs since last Friday.

The Nation learnt that the cult war was caused by a disagreement at a polling centre in the city during the March 28 general election in which a member of one of the cult groups was beaten to death.

Besides the barber, another youth was killed at about 7:00am at Second East Circular.

According to madam Philomena, Patrick was killed by three gunmen who ensured he was dead before they left.

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."

The state's police spokesman, DSP Stephen Onwochei, could not be reached for comments on the incident.

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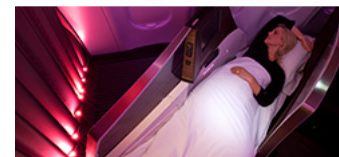
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