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## Cultists kill five in Edo attacks

Posted by: Osagie Otabor and Osemwengle Ben Ogbemudia, Benin in News ⌚ 11 hours ago

**Suspected cultists, on Tuesday morning, killed two students of the Edo State College of Agriculture, Iguoriakhi in Ovia Southwest Local Government Area.**

**The third victim was said to be a boy learning a vocation.**

Two women, who were said to be the mothers of unidentified students that rival cultists were looking for, were also killed on Tuesday night in Benin, the state capital.

A 20-year-old man, suspected to be a cultist, was also killed in his parents' home in what looked like a reprisal.

The women were killed at Murtala Muhammed Way and New Benin.

The woman at the Murtala Muhammed Way was killed for allegedly lying about the whereabouts of her son. The other was reportedly killed when the cultists could not find her son at home.

An eyewitness said the armed hoodlums stormed the Virginia Junction, near the Murtala Muhammed Way, at 8p.m., searching for their target, said to be a 20-year-old student.

The cultists reportedly first went to the store belonging to their target's mother. But when they asked her about the whereabouts of her son, she told them that she had not seen him for over two weeks.

They were said to have gone to the boy's home and found him. They killed him instantly.

Angered that the woman had lied to them, they went back to her shop and shot her dead.

The two students of the Edo State College of Agriculture, Iguoriakhi, were said to have been shot dead on their way to lectures on Tuesday morning.

The examinations that were supposed to start at the institution were postponed after students barricaded the highway to protest the killings.

The Provost, Dr. Friday Obasogie, confirmed the killings.

He said the victims were on their way to school when they were ambushed and killed by the gunmen.

Obasogie said: "As I speak with you, I am with the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) at Iguobazuwa. The two students lived in the community. They were going to school when the perpetrators ran out of the bush, attacked them and ran back to the bush.

"It was a cult clash. You know what it has been in Benin for over a week now. The police have brought the situation under control.

"The semester's examinations have been postponed by one week to enable tension die down."

Police spokesman Stephen Onwochei, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), said investigation had begun into the killings.

Onwochei said the killers would not escape justice as the police had launched a manhunt for them.

In a similar incident, few weeks ago, suspected cultists shot dead the mother of their target when they did not find him at home.

An eyewitness said the woman was shot in the eye.

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Over 20 persons have died in the last three weeks since the renewed cult war started in the Edo State capital.

The reprisal killings were said to have started immediately after the elections, when a member of a cult group was killed.

Onwochei told reporters that the police had arrested some suspects.

On the number of persons that have been killed since the violence started, Onwochei said: "I cannot give you the accurate figure, but we are compiling a list. Once we are done, we will parade them. We are still investigating."

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