

Three killed in Delta community's cult clash

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THREE persons have been confirmed killed in the Ovwian/Aladja Express Junction, Udu Local Government Area, Delta State, in a cultists clash.

Besides the killings and threat to the lives of the residents and those who pass through the busy area, on the outskirts of Warri, economic and other activities have been paralysed, following the cult war.

The Nation gathered that trouble started on Monday when some gunmen killed a man said to be a notorious cultist who had been on police wanted list for alleged murder, Godwin Uwe.

Residents and those doing business in the area had assumed the fight was among members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) but it became clear when the shooting became more intense.

A resident, who gave his name simply as Bernard, said the fight was about leadership tussle among those operating the Ovwian Motor Park.

He said: "They dropped (killed) one person yesterday (Monday); they have dropped almost two today. It's all these *agbero* (louts). I think they said they are fighting over positions. The place has been a no-go area since.

"The police have taken over the area. I believe it's their Ovwian agbero problem.

"The area has been locked up by security agents. So, nobody can open shop there today. "When I passed there this afternoon, they have packed the bodies from the place."

Also, police spokesman Andrew Aniamaka, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), said: "So far, we have three people down. I am not aware of any wounded. As at yesterday, somebody died and two others were killed today. It's cult-related; it's between Viking and Arrowbagers.

"Even the person killed yesterday (Monday), Godwin Uwe, has been on a list of persons wanted in connection with cases of murder. He's one of the kingpins of a cult group; he's

been in hiding for a while. It looked like the other group got him.

"As we speak, there's calm in the area and in the division. Nobody has come to identify the two persons who were killed today.

"What we discovered is that these groups strike and retreat. In other words, cult members from the area employ the services of those from outside to do their fight, after which they disappear."

Asked if the fight had any link with the NURTW in the area, Aniamaka said: "We'll investigate to know if such rivalry culminated into cult clashes."













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