

Policeman, journalist die in Edo cult clash



Bisi Olaniyi, Benin December 27, 2023



• NUJ seeks justice

A policeman attached to the [Edo State](#) Police command has died in a cult battle.

Commissioner of Police Mohammed Dankwara, who confirmed this yesterday, said some suspected cultists were also arrested in Benin metropolis.

He condemned attacks by cultists on innocent residents, particularly a reporter with Independent Television and Radio (ITV/Radio), Hillary Odia.

He said: “The command is sincerely fighting cultism, and wishes to end it for Edo State to be peaceful for all. Its efforts are visible in the loss of one of its personnel during an operation in the Ugbowo axis of Benin, on December 24.

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“Nevertheless, some of the cultists have been arrested and will soon be prosecuted.”

Dankwara also pleaded with residents to remain calm and be peaceful. He assured them that the command is committed to ensuring the safety of their lives and property.

He also urged them to come up with information that can help in the fight against crime.

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has urged the police to unravel the circumstances surrounding the murder of Odia.

The union prayed for the repose of the soul of its fallen soldier and urged his family to take solace in the fact that Odia would be remembered on the positive side of history.