

Drunken policemen kill two in Edo during New Year celebrations

HENDRIX OLIOMOGBE - BENIN

Square, downtown Benin.

The source who would not want his name in print disclosed that the drunken policemen, who were apparently in a celebratory mood, fired gunshots into the air at their station opposite the popular Oba market to herald the coming of the new year, and accidentally hit the duo who came to celebrate the new year in com-

pany with friends.

The source pointed out that one of the victims died immediately on the spot while the other lost his life moments later, as he was not able to get first aid.

Efforts to confirm the killings proved abortive, as the mobile phone of the Edo State police spokesman, Mr. Chidi Nwanbuzor, was engaged.

Meanwhile, Governor Godwin Obaseki of Edo State has urged the State Commissioner of Police, Mr Johnson Kokumo, to investigate the shooting incident at Ring Road, Benin, the state capital, on New Year's Day.

In a statement issued by his Special Adviser on Media and Communication Strategy, Mr Crusoe Osagie, the governor assured that

anyone found culpable would be brought to book.

Obaseki demanded for a clear report on what actually transpired and the condition under which the reported shooting took place.

He said the administration placed high priority on the security of lives and property with the huge investment in the recently launched state's security architecture and trust fund.

"Unconfirmed reports trending on some news platforms claim the incident at Ring Road happened during the frenzied celebration of the cross-over to the New Year.

"It is alleged that a life was lost, but we are yet to get the details of the incident from the Police and other concerned security agencies," he said.

One killed as cultists strike on New Year's day in Badagry

A bloody clash between suspected rival cult groups left one person dead on New Year's Day in Badagry, Lagos State, the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)** has reported. Sources told NAN that the deceased, simply identified as Shefiu, was shot

dead around Senior Boys Joint on Soglo Way, at about 1:00 a.m.

It was gathered that the deceased, who allegedly belonged to the Eiye Confraternity, was shot dead during a scuffle between rival suspected cultists.

According to the source,

members of the groups ran away from the scene immediately after the shooting, leaving behind the lifeless body of the victim.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in Badagry, Mr Samson Akhiromen, told

NAN that one suspect had

been arrested over the killing.

The DPO said that investigation was underway to establish the motive behind the killing, adding that efforts were on to apprehend other suspected hoodlums involved in the incident.