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5 die in Edo cult clashes

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THE Edo State capital, Benin City, in the last two days, has been turned into a theatre of war between members of two cult groups in which five persons have been killed.

Violent crime has become the order of the day since the October 19 #EndSARS protest took a turn for the worse in the state when hoodlums infiltrated the ranks and file of the peaceful protesters and hijacked the protest.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that members of the two cult groups, Eiye and Aye confraternities, were involved in the latest clashes in the city.

Further information indi-

cated that some of those involved in the clashes might be some of the inmates who escaped from the two correctional centres attacked during the EndSARS protest.

The supremacy war between the two cult groups occurred at Upper Sokponba, Ogida and New Benin areas of the capital city.

At Upper Sokponba on Thursday morning, some armed men stormed the area, brandishing dangerous weapons and harassing motorists with impunity as the city is devoid of any security presence following the burning of seven police stations during the #EndSARS protest, which then made the state's po-

lice command withdraw its personnel from the streets.

At Idogbo, headquarters of Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area, two persons were reportedly killed on Thursday at a filling station after the council secretariat, while another person was killed near Y-Junction on the same Sokponba Road.

Nigerian Tribune further gathered that on Wednesday, two persons were killed near Ogida Barracks in Egor Local Government Area.

The fifth victim was hacked to death near Constain area in New Benin in Oredo Local Government Area.

Still on Wednesday, some gunmen stormed Siluko Road, close to the burnt Ogida Barracks, with guns

and forced those trekking to raise their hands, while several motorists were harassed.

A resident of Upper Sokponba Road, on Thursday, lamented what had been the lot of the people living in the area, saying: "We have been living in fear in this area and other parts of the state capital.

"Between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., people go indoors because some boys openly brandish their weapons, robbing and harassing people. This morning (Thursday), two persons were killed, which we later learnt belonged to a rival cult group."

The state's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Chidi Nwabuzor, when contacted, simply said, "we are in a meeting."

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