

# Three killed in Benue cult clash during birthday party

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NO fewer than three persons were killed in a cult-related fight at Odoba Otukpa in Ogbadibo Local Government Area of Benue State on Saturday night.

An eyewitness told Nigerian Tribune that the quarrel broke out during a birthday party organised by one of the youth in Odoba com-

munity.

The eyewitness, from Odoba community, who did not want to be mentioned, explained that a young man who came from Obu Otukpa, a neighboring community, for the party was hacked during the quarrel, which then brought about a reprisal from members of his community, in which two other persons from Odoba community were killed.

One of the two youths killed, according to the eyewitness, was already planning to bury his father this week.

Confirming the incident, the chairman of Ogbadibo Local Government, Prince Samuel Onu, said the clash was cult-related, just as he added that the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Otukpa was aware of the development.

Onu said: "It has nothing to do with communal crisis; it was a clash between rival groups.

"The incident happened at a party last night (Saturday night) and we have directed that the corpses be buried immediately."

However, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Catherine Anene, said she was yet to be briefed about the incident.