

Five feared killed in A'Ibom cult clash

Udeme Utip | Uyo

FIVE persons were feared killed and others injured on Tuesday evening when members of rival cult groups -- Vikings and Mafians -- clashed in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital.

An eyewitness at the Ibom Plaza told the *Nigerian Tribune* that the clash started about 6:30p.m and lasted for about two hours before police operatives and

a detachment of soldiers guarding the plaza since the #EndSARS protests arrived to restore normalcy.

A tricycle operator who spoke with newsmen attributed the violence to a disagreement at a betting shop on the Ikot Ekpene road by the Plaza area, adding that the incident triggered old animosity between the rival groups.

The source said: "One cultist, a member of Vikings Confraternity had placed a bet to the tune

of N5,000, but did not pay after he lost.

"The shop attendant asked him to pay or drop his phone, but he refused and instead, he called his gang members on phone, who came and attacked the attendant and raided the shop."

He added that the clash was a reprisal from the camp of the booking man, said to belong to the Mafians group.

The source said three persons were killed; two at the

Plaza area and one at Ikpa road junction, close to the University of Uyo (UNI-UYO) town campus, while two others had earlier been killed at Okokon Etuk Street, few meters to the Uyo City Centre.

The state police command confirmed the incident.

The statement by the spokesperson for the command, SP Odiko Macdon, could, however, not confirm the number of casualties.