

# Suspected cultists kill three in renewed war in Edo

Idahosa Moses | Benin with agency report

**T**HREE persons were on Sunday night killed in Benin-City, in what appeared to be resumption of cult killings in the Edo State capital.

It will be recalled that about 30 people, including a journalist with the Independent Radio and Television Station and vigilante heads, were killed during a cult war between members of the Black Axe and their rival, Supreme Eye Confraternity, last year.

The renewed cult clash, it was gathered, is also between the Black Axe and the Eye Confraternity, a development that is sending shivers down the spines of residents of

Benin-City.

Two of the latest victims, identified as Denco and Ariba, were killed at a drinking joint at Igun junction by Igbesanmwani and Oza streets, off Sokponba Road.

It was further learnt that while Denco was accosted by his assailants at the drinking joint, Ariba was killed inside his room after leaving his door open on getting himself drunk.

The development, according to a source, led to the killing of the third victim at 2nd East Circular area same Sunday night, bringing the total number of casualties to three.

When contacted on phone, spokesperson for the state police command, Chidi Nwanbuzor, told the *Nigerian*

*Tribune* that he was yet to be briefed on the incidents.

He said: "Not until we see the reports coming from there [areas of crime], I will not be able to make a statement I don't know about."

In another development, the state police command has arrested 18 suspects in the last one month for various criminal activities.

According to the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)*, the Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr Funsho Adegboye, stated this while addressing newsmen in Benin on Monday.

Adegboye said that the figure comprised 10 suspects arrested for alleged cultism and terrorising residents of the state.

He said the command's

operatives also arrested two suspected kidnappers and in another case, killed some suspects during a gun duel, leading to the rescue of a victim.

"The police command in Edo, in a bid to rid the state of criminal elements has made some modest achievements.

"These included the arrest of kidnappers, cultists, armed robbers, illegal possessor of firearms, as well as recovery of firearms and other dangerous weapons," he said.

He said the suspects included four persons who robbed one Michael Ebenezer of N20 million, as well as a serial fraudster for allegedly defrauding a civil servant of N2 million under the pretence of helping to secure a visa to Spain for her.