

Renewed cult killings claim eight in Edo

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RENEWED cult clashes in some parts of Benin-City, the Edo State capital, particularly at Upper Sokponba Road and environs, have reportedly claimed about eight lives.

The latest clash is said to be between the Supreme Eiye Confraternity (SEC) and Supreme Vikings Confraternity.

Though the cause of the clash is yet unknown, it was gathered that the issues escalated when some of the people believed to be leaders of the groups tried to resolve a crisis in a meeting called at Tipper Garage in Idogbo area of Upper Sokponba Road and that "the attempt to settle the matter did not work out."

It was further gathered that some alleged Eiye members attacked the Vikings members and inflicted injuries on them with knives. However, no life was lost in that exchanges.

The Vikings returned in numbers and killed a top member of Eiye and that was how the attacks escalated.

A source further revealed that after that, the Vikings members killed another person called 'Oil Man,' also an Eiye member and from there, they went to two houses and killed another

person; that was when Eiye Confraternity members decided to retaliate, it was gathered.

Meanwhile, a group, Benin United Forum (BUF), has called on the Oba of Benin, Omo N'Oba N'Edo Uku Akpolokpolo, Ewuare II to invoke curses on those involved in cult-related killings like he did when human trafficking assumed an embarrassing dimension in the kingdom.

A press statement signed by the President and Secretary of the group, Iyamu Osaro Culture and Osayuki-Osa Benson said: "We humbly appeal to, Omo N'Oba N'Edo, Uku Akpolo Kpolo Oba Ewuare II, to direct our Ohens (Chief Priests) across the length and breadth of Benin Kingdom to immediately place curses on those who are hiding under cultism to kill themselves in some parts of Benin City, which has consumed the lives of countless youths especially at Upper Sakponba axis, which is often seen as the centre ground for the barbaric act, followed by Egor/Uwelù, Ugbowo/Uselu, part of GRA."

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Moses Yamu, said the police would respond at the appropriate time to the killings.