

Gunmen kill PDP youth leader, five students

A Peoples Democratic Party youth leader in Enugu State, Mr. King Ngene, and five students of the state-owned Institute of Management and Technology have been killed by gunmen suspected to be cultists.

Ngene and four of the students were murdered in their homes on Thursday, while the six person, Henry Uzoagu, was shot dead within the school on Wednesday. Some PDP members in Enugu said the youth leader was killed in his Amechi, Awkunanaw residence.

THE PUNCH learnt that the killings followed a cult war between the Neo-Black Movement of Africa and Blue Berets. Both fraternities are also known as Black Axe and Two-Two respectively.

According to a student, who identified herself as Chinyere, the cult crisis erupted on Tuesday night, the second day of the institution's Students' Week.

"As we gathered from some of the popular male students close to the cultists, one of the cult groups had offended the other on Tuesday. But I can't say for sure which of them was at the receiving end.

"We thought the matter would die a natural death since it has been a long time since we witnessed cult clashes. But surprisingly, while we were in school on Wednesday, some masked men came from nowhere and shot Uzoagu in the head. He bled to death on the way to the hospital."

Until his death, Uzoagu was a part II Higher National Diploma student in the Department of Mass Communication.

Reacting to the development, the Police Public Relations Officer, Enugu State Command, Mr. Ebere Amaraizu, said Ngene was believed to be a cultist and might have been killed in a reprisal attack by a rival group.