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## Three NDU students feared killed as rival cultists clash

No fewer than three undergraduates of the Bayelsa State-owned Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Amassomma, are feared dead as a result of clashes between two cult groups on the campus.

The clash between AY and Vagas cult groups was said to have claimed the lives of the students – a 300 level engineering student and two final year students.

The alleged killings were said to have taken place before and during the school's semester examinations which ended last week.

It was gathered that the unnamed 300 level student was inflicted with machete cuts by the cultists and later died in a private hospital at Amassoma in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of the state where he was taken to.

A student, who gave his name simply as Dan, alleged that a final year male student was also killed by a group of cultists who stormed the examination hall.

"The finalist was in the hall writing exams when the cultists – about eight in number, stormed the hall and shot him dead. They escaped after shooting sporadically into the air to scare other students," Dan, who lives on the campus, said.

Efforts to get the school authorities to respond to the sad development did not yield results.

Calls to the institution's spokesman, Mr. Domo Alagoa, were not answered.

The text message sent to Alagoa's phone was also not responded to as of press time.

Police authorities however said they did not have record of any killing in the university.

Commissioner of Police, Bayelsa State Police Command, Mr. Hilary Opara, though confirmed cult activities on the campus, he said he never heard of anyone killed.

He said the only sad incident was that a student was inflicted with machete cuts but did not die.

Opara said, "It is not true, not even one person died. There was some cult activity and during the process one of them was inflicted with machete cuts. The victim did not die.

"We are investigating the matter. As I speak to you, five cultists have been arrested. Others are still on the run."

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