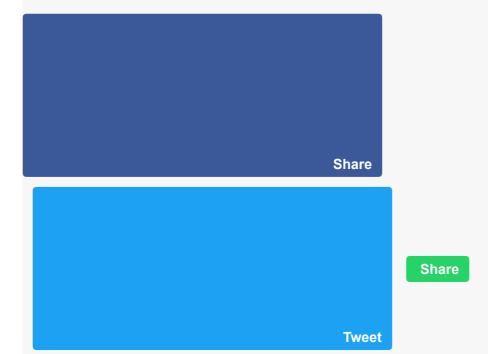
Cultists shoot dead NDA undergraduate

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The repentant cultists

Simon Utebor, Yenagoa

Suspected cultists have shot dead an undergraduate of the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, Saviour Enoch.

It was learnt that Saviour, aged 20, was killed on Saturday about 8pm along Gwegwe/Navy Road at Ovom, Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Saviour, it was learnt, was admitted into the NDA two years ago.

The murdered military cadet, a resident of the Ovom area, was said to be on a holiday in Yenagoa from the NDA when the incident occurred.

The deceased was said to be on the street, having a chat with his visiting friend and Naval Rating with the Central Naval Command when they heard screams from a victim whose bag was snatched by suspected cultists.

Saviour, who was a resident of the area, responded to the cry of help and chased after the suspects.

It was gathered that unknown to him (Saviour), other members of the cult group had hidden somewhere to ward off any rescue attempt and he was shot at a close range.

It was further learnt that immediately they shot him, they all (cultists) disappeared in pandemonium created by the gruesome murder.

A spokesman for the Bayelsa State Police Command, Asinim Butswat, confirmed the incident, saying that the police through the community policing initiative had arrested no fewer than 20 persons in connection with the killing.

"The community has condemned that act in totality and they have come out en masse to show their support for the police in order to arrest the suspects. We have arrested some persons during a routine operation that was carried out after Saviour was shot.

"About 20 persons have been arrested. I know that they have screened some of them. I do not know how many of them are linked directly to the killing. However, the community has volunteered useful

information concerning the actual suspects who have been identified."

Meanwhile, Saviour's family has urged the security agencies in the state to fish out the killers and bring them to justice.

The deceased's uncle, Mr Ovieakini Enoch, made the appeal on Monday in Yenagoa.