

Man stabs friend to death during argument over wristwatch

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• Oke-Eletu bus stop, Ijeda

Etim Ekpimah

A suspected member of the *Eiye* Confraternity is alleged to have stabbed his friend and fellow cultist to death after a heated argument over whose wristwatch is most expensive.

It was learnt that the friends were having a good time at the Lukham Crown Hotel, Oke-Eletu, Ijeda, in the Ikorodu area of Lagos State, when they engaged in the argument.

A resident of the area, who identified himself simply as Kunle, alleged that the duo, besides being members of the same cult group, were also Internet fraudsters.

He added that in the heat of the argument, one of them brought out a pair of scissors and stabbed the other in the abdomen.

He added that efforts by onlookers and customers of the hotel to save him proved futile.

According to him, the incident, which occurred on the eve of the presidential and National Assembly elections, attracted bystanders and other members of the cult group, who beat up the one who stabbed his friend.

Kunle added that before the police could get to the scene of the incident, the man had been beaten to the extent that he could hardly walk as a result of the injuries the mob inflicted on him.

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The eyewitness stated that residents of the area thought that political thugs had been let loose to scuttle the electoral process following sporadic shooting, adding that they were running in different directions to escape being hit by stray bullets.

“Residents of Oke-Eletu were thrown into confusion when one of the cult guys stabbed his friend to death. The commotion that followed the incident was scary as other members of the *Eiye* Confraternity stormed the scene.

“The incident attracted fierce-looking cultists, who fired gunshots in the air. There was no way for the one who stabbed his friend to escape; he was held down by eyewitnesses, who began beating him before the arrival of the other cult members.

“He could not have survived the kind of beating he received. We heard that he later died after he was taken to the police station.”

Another resident, who identified herself simply as Mrs Babatunde, told *PUNCH Metro* that initially, the residents thought that there was a clash between supporters of the two leading political parties in the area.

She said, “When I heard gunshots that day, I thought the supporters of the leading political parties were at it again, especially as it happened on the eve of the presidential and National Assembly elections. Clashes between the supporters of both parties are frequent here.

“Nobody thought that cultists could rise up on that day to cause that kind of commotion in the area. We live in fear here. The entire Oke-Eletu is filled with cultists.”

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Chike Oti, confirmed the incident, but stated that the man who stabbed his friend did not die.

He said, “Two friends went on a drinking binge at a club in Ijede. When they had consumed sufficient liquor, an argument arose between the two of them.

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“In the course of the argument, one stabbed the other in the stomach with a pair of scissors and he bled to death. The other one was arrested by the police and has been taken to the Homicide Section of the State Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Department, Panti, Yaba for further investigation.”

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