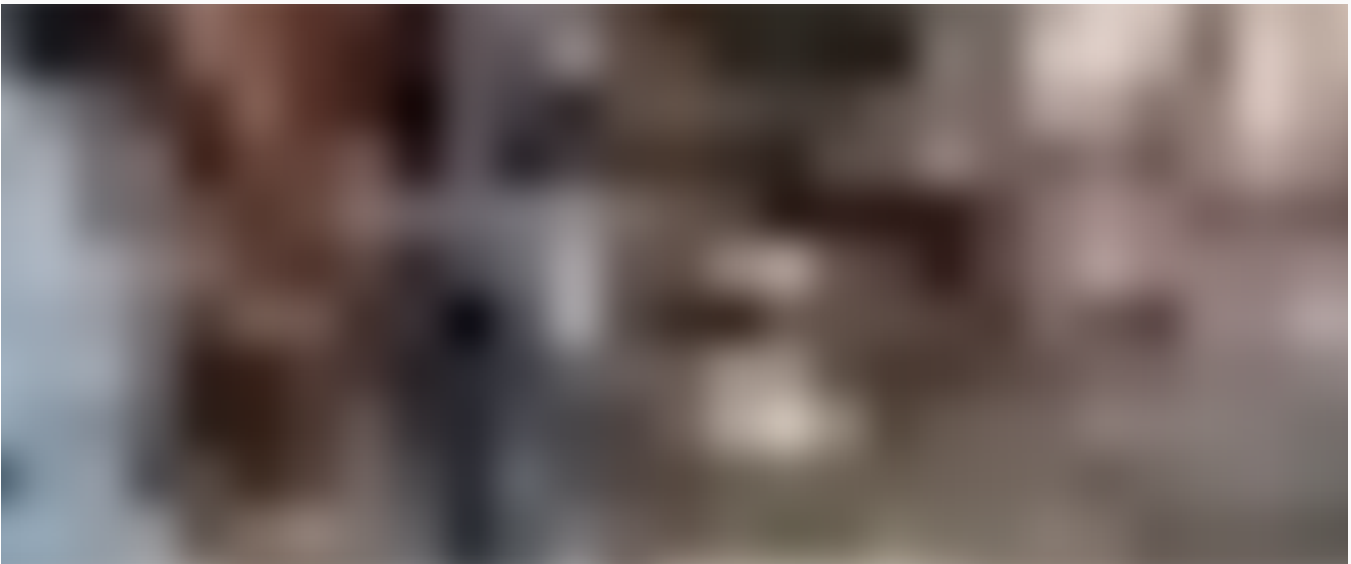


Seven killed, houses burnt in Cross River cult clash

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Web image

Ada Wodu, Calabar

no fewer than seven persons were feared killed in a cult clash on Monday in Okundi in the Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State.

Eyewitnesses said houses were also burnt as the clash escalated following the killing of a youth opposed to cult activities in the community.

Reports said the youth, identified as Joseph Bankong, was killed on Monday night, sparking further clash and bloodshed on Tuesday.

According to sources, the 12 villages that make up the Old Osokom Clan in Boki Local Government Area had held a meeting in Okundi seeking ways to eradicate cult activities in the communities.

According to the sources, the cult groups, on learning that the community was plotting to counter their activities, decided to strike first.

The cultists allegedly camped at Apostolic Church in Okundi, close to Boki Boys' Secondary School and on Monday night they killed their first victim, Joseph Bankong, who allegedly opposed the activities of cultists in the community.

“The killing of Bankong made the entire community to rise against suspected cult members. In the process, Alphonsus Ewung, Otu Edum, among others, were killed,” a source said on condition of anonymity.

Eyewitnesses said houses and property worth millions of naira were burnt between Monday and Tuesday.

The state Commissioner of Police, Austin Agbonlahor, confirmed the development on the telephone.

He said, “It is a cult war which started last night (Monday night). The police are on ground now.”

He, however, said he was not aware of the number of casualties.

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