

# Four killed in fresh Cross River cult clashes

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Cross River Gov, Ben Ayade and Cross River State Commissioner of Police, Nkereuwem Akpan

## Ada Wodu and Edward Nnachi

At least four persons have been killed in fresh cult clashes in Calabar, Cross River State.

The killings took place on Saturday and Sunday in Calabar South Local Government Area after the burial of an alleged ex-Bakassi Strike Force member, Ene Akabom.

It was learnt that there was a clash between Klans and Axe cult groups in Idang-Ibesikpo-Ambo area in Mbukpa, leading to the killing of a suspected cultist on Duncan Street.

Sources claimed a barber was killed at his shop along Mbukpa Road on Sunday, while another was also butchered.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Irene Ugbo, confirmed the incident, saying they had arrested some people in connection with the clashes.

“We have arrested many suspects over the cult clash. They will be paraded soon,” she told our correspondent on Monday.

### **Ebonyi lawmakers, LG boss arrested as cultists kill one**

Meanwhile, police in Ebonyi State on Monday said they had arrested the Chairman of Afikpo South Local Government Area, Mr Eni-Uduma Chima, the member representing Afikpo South (East) in the House of Assembly, Chidi Ejem, and another lawmaker over their alleged involvement in cult clashes, which led to the death of one person in the area on Sunday night.

It was learnt that Chima had for long been at loggerheads with Ejem over political issues despite being members of the Peoples Democratic Party.

The cult clashes, which led to the death of one Dunk, took place at Asaga village, Owutu community.

The state Commissioner of Police, Awosola Awotinde, confirmed the incident to journalists on Monday in Abakaliki.

He confirmed that they had arrested the council boss and the lawmaker in connection with the clashes.

He said, “The cult clashes took place at Asaga-Owutu Edda in Afikpo South Local Government Area and it warranted the the killing of one man called Dunk.

“There was actually a clash in Afikpo South and we have arrested the chairman of the local government area, one House of Assembly member representing the area, and another honourable.

“We have dispatched our men there to ensure peace return, and we are still investigating the matter.”

However, a source from the area said the killing was as a result of differences between two cult groups at Asaga Owutu Edda in Afikpo South.

The source stated further that the clashes were politically motivated, adding that many persons were injured.

However, all effort to reach Chima and Ejem were not successful as their phones were switched off and the text messages sent to their mobiles had yet to be replied to as of the time of filing this report.