

One killed as Delta cult war rages, residents live in fear

Dele Oguntemi, Warri

Government Area of Delta State.

THE lifeless body of a yet-to-be-identified young man has been recovered from a pathway in Essi Layout, in the Warri South Local

Witnesses said the deceased was a victim of suspected cult violence in the locality.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the victim was found dead on Saturday and was suspected to have been killed overnight.

According to sources, he was discovered in a pool of blood with machete cuts on his forehead and arms.

It was gathered that several shots had rent the air in the vicinity the previous night as the suspected cultists engaged in a supremacy battle.

Recall that a cult clash between the Vikings and Eiyé confraternities last December left one person dead in the same Iyara-Essi Layout of Warri.

Our correspondent, however, could not tell if the renewed clash was a spillover of last year's fight.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Delta State Command, DSP Bright Edafe, confirmed the incident.

The PPRO said, "It was a cult clash."

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The police spokesman, DSP Ikenga Tochukwu, who confirmed the incident, said some names of the alleged killers had been given to the police by community leaders.

He said, "Some persons have given us information which we are working on and I can assure you that anyone mentioned will be invited and questioned.

"We are leaving no stone unturned in the ongoing investigation in the area. Meanwhile, operation is still ongoing and security agents are on the ground to prevent a reprisal. Further details shall be communicated please."

Efforts to speak with the Anaku people proved abortive as their representatives promised to get back to our correspondent.

As of the time of filing this report, they had yet to get back.

led for alleged murder, ettc