

One dies in Anambra market cult clash

Ikenna Obianeri, Awka

ONE person identified as Igwe Omeli was said to have been shot dead during a clash between rival cult groups at the popular Eke Awka market in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State on Wednesday.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the victim was killed in crossfire while members of the rival cult groups were engaging in a supremacy battle over the control of the market.

The deceased was suspected to be one of the leaders of the Aye cult group in the market.

A source in the market who spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons confirmed to our correspondent that it was a clash between the Baga and Aye cult groups in the market.

The source said, "The clash is related to market politics, but the man killed was the person they always used in terrorising us to comply with certain agenda. Any time the leadership want to enforce any agenda, he is the person and others they used."

"The Baga cult group members were pursuing Omeli and he ran into the market to mobilise his boys to rescue him and unfortunately for him, before his boys could get

the information, they killed him and cut his head and male organ.

"He was killed inside the market at the abattoir area and the cult members cut his head and male organ with the butcher's knives. Further bloodshed was averted as members of the rival cult group had fled before the deceased group members arrived at the scene."

The source also disclosed that a few weeks ago, one person was also killed during a clash between the same rival groups.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Ikenga Tochukwu, confirmed the incident, saying police operatives have intensified operations in the area.

The PPRO said, "Police operatives have intensified surveillance operations in the area and investigation is ongoing. No arrest yet. More information will be communicated later.

"Our operatives have taken over the scene and information gathered from an eyewitness shows it is cult-related.

"Also, some witnesses of the incident have provided more information that is helping in ongoing operations aimed at uncovering the perpetrators."