

# Again, one killed in Ogun cult clash

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By Johnson Idowu

In what appears to be a retaliatory cult clash, one Azeez Olaitan was reportedly killed by suspected members of the Aiye Confraternity in the Alogi area of Odeda Local Government Area of Ogun State on Sunday.

This is just as the Ogun State Police Command said that the window of amnesty extended to members of various cult groups in the state to surrender their arms and be reintegrated into society was still open.

Our correspondent gathered on Monday from a resident of the area who pleaded anonymity that the clash was a fallout of a previous attack on a suspected member of the Aiye Confraternity by the Eiye Confraternity on the same day.

*PUNCH Metro* reported on Sunday that a yet-to-be-identified person was killed in a suspected cult clash that occurred in the Bode Olude area of Abeokuta South Local Government Area.

Ogun State Commissioner of Police, Abiodun Alamutu

Further investigations revealed that the victim of the Bode Olude clash was the alleged hitman of the Aiye Confraternity who was allegedly killed by the Eiyes.

The source told our correspondent that following the clash, there was palpable tension in the community as motorists, pedestrians, and residents were scampering for safety.

A video of the incident obtained by our correspondent showed the lifeless body of Azeez lying on the expressway as residents ran helter-skelter.

The source said, "I was on my way home when I saw people running helter-skelter. It was then I realised that someone had been shot in the head with his body lying lifeless. I learnt that he was known as AZ and he was a member of the Eiye."

When our correspondent contacted the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Omolola Odutola, she confirmed the incident, stressing that the body of the deceased had been deposited at the state hospital's morgue in the Ijaiye area of the state.

She said, "A distress call was received from a member of the public on April 21, 2024, who rushed to the Divisional Police Officer after he found a corpse lying on the ground at Alogi Junction.

"Based on the report, the Divisional Police Officer of Obantoko Division led men to the scene and found the said corpse, who was later identified as one Azeez Olaitan age yet unknown. The corpse has been deposited at State Mortuary Ijaye Ogun State."

Odutola, who stated further that an investigation has commenced into the matter, noted that the Command is still committed to granting amnesty to any cult member who is willing to forsake their old ways and surrender their arms.

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"Investigation into the incident has commenced, and the case will be transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department for discreet investigation.

"The Commissioner of Police, CP Abiodun Alamutu, has urged cultists to desist from the act or face the brunt as the command will not relent in fishing them out and ensuring they face justice. The window of amnesty is still open for any cultist that is willing to repent," Odutola stated

She urged parents to get involved in the social life of their children so that the menace of cultism can be addressed headlong.

*PUNCH Metro* reported that some residents of the state raised concerns over the incessant cult clash within the state capital in recent times.

A resident identified simply as Fatai lamented the spate of cult killings in some parts of the state.

Another resident, Taiwo Ade, said, "It is important for the government to address this menace before it gets out of hand. When these guys go on a rampage, they cause residents of the state psychological stress because of the tension their actions often cause. The government should take necessary action over this menace."

No fewer than nine persons were killed in different cult clashes that occurred in different parts of the state between January and April 2024.

On January 19, it was reported that two yet-to-be-identified persons were allegedly butchered by suspected cultists in Ota town in the Ado-Odo Ota Local Government Area of the state.

Similarly, on February 6, the Ogun State Police Command confirmed the arrest of 11 suspects over cult clashes in different parts of Abeokuta, which claimed four lives.

In March, it was reported that two persons identified as Sanni Ibrahim and Azeez Bada were brutally murdered in a clash between rival cult groups in the Igbesa area of Ogun State.

Meanwhile, in April, a suspected cult clash that occurred in the Ijeun Titun area of Abeokuta left one person, identified as Tescom, dead.