

24 killed in Ogun cult violence in six months – Investigation

Ismaeel Uthman

No fewer than 24 people, including a traditional chief, have been killed in cult-related violence that took place in Ogun State between January and June this year.

Findings by *Saturday PUNCH* revealed that the cult clashes were largely between members of Aiye and Eiye confraternities, while Alora/Buccaneer members were also involved in few of the attacks.

The first casualty of the cult killings this year was the Bashorun Akarigbo, Sagamu, Chief Abiodun Folarin, who was killed on Monday, January 8.

Folarin was killed in his Itunsokun, Sagamu residence around 10:45pm by the cultists who were said to be uncomfortable with his war against their activities.

On Friday, February 1, a notorious cultist known as Oloba was killed while another person, Tayo Alora, was murdered on February 4 in an attack and reprisal between Aiye, Eiye and Buccaneer confraternities.

The attacks and reprisal took place at Ijeja, Adehun and Akinolugbade area of Abeokuta.

According to reports, the cult clashes continued on February 7 where three people who were said to be members of Eiye confraternity were killed.

"One of the cultists was killed at Randa, Idi Iya, the second was killed at Sodeke, while the third was murdered at Oke Ijeun, all in

Abeokuta", said a source privy to the cult clashes in the areas.

Members of the three cult groups renewed their war on February 20, resulting in the killing of one Tobi.

However, the cultists ceased fire between February 21 and March 17, as the state recorded no violent clash among them.

But violence returned to the state on March 18, following the killing of Sanni Ibrahim and Azeez Bada who were said to be involved in a clash between Eiye and Aiye cult groups at Igbesa, Agbara area of Ogun State.

Abeokuta recorded another cult-related violence on Sunday, March 31, leading to the killing of one Olumide Ifeoluwa, popularly known as Tescom, at Ijeun Tuntun area of the state capital.

According to an X account, "Naija Confra" which tracks the activities of cultists in Nigeria, an unidentified person was killed by the cultists on April 2, 2024, at Oluwo Adigbe area of Abeokuta.

On April 21, one Azeez Olaitan, a suspected member of Aiye confraternity was also killed in Alogi, Odeda Local Government Area of Ogun State in a faceoff between his group and Eiye confraternity.

The Ogun State House of Assembly had during its plenary on May 2, 2024, reported that no fewer than 10 individuals lost their lives to cult-related violence within 42 days in Abeokuta.

Barely a week after the Assembly's

outcry, *Saturday PUNCH* gathered that the cultists engaged in free for all, leading to the death of one of them at Atan-Lusada area of the state on May 8.

It was also gathered that there was a reprisal of the Atan-Lusada killing between Aiye and Eiye cultists, which resulted to the death of another person on May 10, at Igbesa.

This was just as one person was reportedly killed at Lantoro area of Abeokuta in another clash between the ravaging rival cult groups.

The cultists also struck again on May 14, killing one Segun popularly known as "Ojo Ibo" at Bode Olude, Abeokuta, according to sources. Segun's right wrist was reportedly chopped off after being killed in the clash.

A notorious cultist who went by the name 'Warlord' was shot during the matriculation ceremony at DS Adegbenro ICT Polytechnic, Itori, on May 18. He later died at a hospital where he was taken for treatment the same day.

According to Naija Confra, a clash between members of Aiye and Eiye cult groups at Ijoko led to the killing of a person whose name was not known on May 23, 2024.

Saturday PUNCH also gathered that the rival cult groups attacked each other on May 25 at Faiol, Obantoko, Abeokuta. One person was reportedly killed in the clash.

There was no reported case of cult related violence in any part of Ogun State in June.

However, a final year student of History and Diplomatic Studies of Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ogun State, Ayinla Fabiyi, was killed on Wednesday, July 3 by some suspected cultists.

Fabiyi's death makes the number of reported casualties in cult related violence in Ogun State the 25th between January 8 and July 3, 2024.

PC, decries exclusion from party's affairs

wide-ranging consultations with his supporters, colleagues, and political associates.

He said he was "grossly underutilised" and excluded from the party's forums and decision-making processes.

He further expressed disappointment with the APC government's policies,

describing them as "anti-people oriented which cause more harm than good to ordinary citizens".

He emphasised that experienced politicians like himself cannot afford to stay idle and would continue to work for the development of the state and country.