

One killed in Bayelsa cult war

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| By Samuel Ese

A renewed war between some cultists in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, has resulted in the death of a person.

The cultists had suspended their violent clashes for almost a year, but they resumed on Friday.

Sunday PUNCH gathered that commercial activities at Punch Road and nearby streets in Amarata axis of Yenagoa were temporarily grounded on Friday night and early Saturday morning as a cult group went on a revenge mission.

A young man, simply identified as Frank, aka Akiman, was reportedly trailed to Punch Road and shot dead at about 9.00pm on Friday by the suspected rival cult group.

| Map of Bayelsa State

A source said the assailants who were about six shot Frank in the arm and thereafter pursued him to a corner and shot him in the head.

The source said the cultists later shot into the air to disperse residents, causing some people, especially traders to abandon their wares, stores and even kids.

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“They trailed Frank and shot him in the arm. As he was trying to escape, they cornered him and shot him in the head. Later, they shot into the air to scare the crowd before making their escape,” the source said.

According to sources, Frank’s group came out with guns and cutlasses in apparent revenge, causing further security concerns in the area on Saturday morning.

They were said to have attacked another youth, inflicting machete cuts on him.

The source said the on-going cult war may not be unconnected with the recent clash between rival cult groups at Igbogene, which had so far claimed five lives.

He said the cult clash started at Igbogene over the control of the new motor terminal built by the state government which became operational last week.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Bayelsa State Command, Musa Mohammed, didn’t answer our correspondent’s phone calls, nor respond to messages sent to him to confirm the incident.