

Driver who crushed two Edo vigilantes in our custody – Police

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| By Adeyinka Adedipe

| A Nigeria policeman

The police have confirmed the arrest of the driver of the articulated vehicle which crushed two members of the Vigilante Group of Nigeria to death in front of the University of Benin along Lagos Road.

One of the deceased was identified as Mustapha through his identity card, while the other had their head crushed.

The deceased persons were said to be riding a motorcycle when they were run over by the trailer and sped off after the accident.

A hawker recounted that the accident happened in a flash as it was not clear whether the men of the vigilante were trying to stop the trailer before they were crushed.

The hawker said: “The accident happened all of a sudden. The trailer was on its way to Lagos and suddenly, the men were lying on the road lifeless with their heads crushed.

No one could say if the vigilantes were trying to stop the trailer when the accident happened. It is so sad that these men had to lose their lives in this manner.”

When contacted on Tuesday evening, the spokesman of the Edo State Police Command, Moses Yamu, confirmed the incident, adding that the driver has been arrested.

He said, “It is true that the accident happened and that the men died in the process. The driver is now in our custody.”

The corpses, it was gathered, have been deposited at the morgue of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital.

Meanwhile, worried by incidents of cult attacks in the state, Governor Monday Okpebholo, on Tuesday ordered a crackdown on cult-related violence and killing in the state.

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About five persons were reportedly killed between Friday and Sunday in the state capital over the renewed clash between rival cult groups.

In a statement on Tuesday by the governor's Special Adviser, Media and Publicity, Bugie Okhuemoi, said there will be no sacred cow in the crackdown.

The statement read, "The Edo State Government is deeply concerned about the resurgence of cult-related violence in some parts of the state.

"It is important to recall that following earlier disturbances last year, Governor Okpebholo, among several proactive steps taken, convened personally and through his agents a series of critical meetings with the known leaders of groups suspected to be involved in these criminal activities.

"At those meetings, firm agreements were reached, they were to rein in their members and take full responsibility for their conduct. The Governor made it abundantly clear that the State would no longer tolerate the senseless killing of our youth and the destabilization of our communities."

The statement noted that it is regrettable that recent developments indicate that some individuals and groups have chosen to defy that understanding.

The statement added, "Governor Okpebholo has directed security agencies to move in decisively. Those who have tested the will of the State will face the full weight of the Edo State Anti-Cultism and Kidnapping Law. There will be no sacred cows.

"This administration remains unshaken in its commitment to rid Edo State of cultism, criminality, and all threats to peace and order. We urge all law-abiding residents to remain calm and continue with their daily activities. The security agencies are fully mobilized and working around the clock to restore and maintain peace.

"The Okpebholo administration is determined to build a safe, stable, and prosperous Edo State — and no amount of intimidation or criminal defiance will stand in the way of that goal."