

# Suspected cultists kill Osun motorcyclist, student

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| By Johnson Idowu

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Some assailants suspected to be cultists have killed two people — a motorcyclist and a student — in the Ilesa area of Osun State.

*PUNCH Metro* learnt on Wednesday from a source privy to the incident, who pleaded anonymity, that the clash occurred on Tuesday.

The source noted that the clash was suspected to have stemmed from an earlier fight between members of the Eiye and Aye confraternities.

He added that the student was being conveyed by the motorcyclist when the assailants attacked them and opened fire.

Photos from the scene of the incident, sighted by our correspondent, showed the lifeless bodies of the victims with visible bloodstains.

The source said, “There was a cult clash yesterday in Ilesa that led to two people’s deaths. One of the victims was a student, as he was wearing a sign-out shirt, while the other person was a motorcyclist.

“I learnt that they were attacked, shot at, and left dead on the spot by the assailants. The clash was suspected to be a retaliatory attack for a previous cult fight.”

Similarly, an anti-cultism advocacy group, NaijaConfra, in a post about the incident shared on X on Tuesday, identified the student victim as Taiwo.

NaijaConfra wrote, “The first victim was identified as Taiwo, a student killed yesterday after signing out. The second victim was confirmed to be the bike man who was carrying Taiwo before the attack.

“While Taiwo died on the spot, the bike man reportedly crawled into the bush and later died there.”

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When contacted on Wednesday, the spokesperson for the Osun State Police Command, Abiodun Ojelabi, confirmed the incident.

He noted that when the police received a report about the incident, officers from the area rushed to the scene and, upon sighting them, the suspects fled.

He added that a manhunt for the perpetrators had commenced, while the case had been transferred to the anti-cultism unit for further investigation.

“Yes, the clash happened, and two people were killed. When the clash happened, on the arrival of the police, everybody took to their heels, but we are still investigating.

“Our intelligence personnel are on the ground, and the matter has been transferred to the anti-cultism section. I am sure that before this week ends, we will see what comes out of it,” Ojelabi said.

The menace of cultism in recent times has grown to an alarming rate, especially on the streets.

PUNCH Metro reported on Tuesday that there was pandemonium in the Atan-Ota area of Ado-Odo-Ota Local Government, Ogun State, after a man was hacked to death in a suspected cult clash.

A resident of the community confirmed to PUNCH Metro that the deceased was hacked to death by members of the Aye confraternity.

While the police have continued to intensify their clampdown on members of these cult groups, they have also appealed to parents to join in the fight against the menace.