

Cult clash claims three in Bayelsa

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From Femi Folaranmi, *Yenagoa*

Three people have reportedly been killed in a deadly cult clash at Igbogene, a suburb of Yenagoa, Bayelsa State capital.

According to sources, those shot include Donaldson Mison aged 28, Addy Mulan aged 27, and Greenboy Dudella aged 29.

Investigations revealed that the bitter rivalry between Bobos and Greenlanders and the battle for dominance of the new Central Park at Igbogene triggered the renewed hostilities between the two cult groups.

It was gathered that on Wednesday night, 10 suspected cultists armed with guns and other dangerous weapons invaded Igbogene and began a raid hunting for their victims.

One of the first victims shot at close range near his house was the son of the former head of the community vigilante at Igbogene.

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Another of the victims shot was a junior brother to an alleged cultist, who paid with his life when he could not disclose his brother's whereabouts.

The Youth President of the Igbogene community, Ezekeil Igbenivie, while confirming the cult clash, stated that those who carried out the attack have absconded.

He disclosed that one of those shot might have survived the attack as he was rushed to the hospital, where doctors are battling to save his life.

Findings indicated that the Bayelsa State Police Command deployed a combined team of Operation Doo Akpo, Anti-Kidnapping Unit and the Rapid Response Team to the area to arrest the situation.

The Spokesman of the Bayelsa State Police Command, Musa Mohammed, confirmed the story and the number of those shot. He assured that the Police deployed to the area are working to ensure normalcy returns.

An agitated resident of the area on Thursday morning stated that shootings are currently ongoing in the area in an operation believed to be a reprisal attack.