

## Three killed, houses burnt as cultists dash in Ebonyi

Uchenna Inya  
ABAKALIKI

At least, three persons were killed while more than 10 houses were burnt at Akpoha in Afikpo North Local Government Area of Ebonyi State when two rival cult groups clashed.

Apart from those killed in the Monday clashes, one person identified as Eze Ikpor (18), was said to be in coma at an undisclosed hospital.

One of those killed was identified as Ogbo Enya Ukpai (27) while the body of a yet-to-be-identified person was found by the river side after the clashes.

In anger, residents of the area razed houses of suspected cultists in the community.

The police said they had arrested five persons in connection with the incident.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Loveth Odah, confirmed the incident.

She said: "On the 28th April, 2019, there are cult-related activities at Akpoha by 10p.m. The cult clash claimed the life of Ogbo Enya Ukpai aged 27 years while Eze Ikpor, 18 years old, was beaten to coma.

"The residences of all the cult boys in that village were set ablaze by the villagers. They took laws into their hands and set houses ablaze, some houses were burnt.

"The DPO of Afikpo Division said he led a patrol team and Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) and moved into the village. Now, they were able to calm the situation and as I am talking to you, five persons have been arrested in connection to the incident.

"We have not just communal crises but also cult-related activities in Ebonyi State. Everywhere you go in the state you see everybody practicing cultism; what is happening? What is the benefit of a person practicing cultism?"