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ABAKALIKI

Three killed in Ebonyi fresh cult crisis

Three persons have been killed in fresh cult war in Ebonyi State.

There have been cult killings in some parts of the state with government threatening to publish names of cultists.

But the killings have persisted despite the threat.

In the latest killings, a 42-year-old man who was working at the Alex Ekwueme Federal Teaching Hospital, Ifeanyi Alegu aka Don Bruno, was shot dead on Sunday at Onueke, the headquarters of Ezza South Local Government Area while eating.

Alegu hailed from Ezzama, Ezza South Local Government Area. There have been cult killings in Ezza South and its neighbouring Ezza North in recent past.

Alegu's killing forced a rival cult group to kill two persons yesterday.

Alegu had gone to eat at a joint in Onueke Park, not knowing he was being trailed.

His killers surfaced at the eatery and shot him in the head. He died on the spot.

But while the dust over his killing was yet to settle, gunmen suspected to be cultists yesterday murdered another man, Martins Igwe Nwagu, of Ezza North Local Government Area. Nwagu was said to be a relative of former Senator Paulinus Igwe Nwagu.

An anti-cultism crusader in the area, Morris Eguji, bemoaned the wilful killings and wanton destruction of property.

Eguji called on major stakeholders in the area to fight cultism.

He said: "If boys less than 25 years old will be killing older men in Ezza land because of cultism, then no stakeholder is free again no matter your posi-

tion, once you have ever joined cult in your school days.

"Let everyone rise now. I have been asking us to rise from day one. More will happen if nothing is done today."

"Yesterday was Ifeanyi Alegu and today is Martins Igwe Nwagu. Who knows who may be the next victim if nothing is done today? We are brothers in the land and our land abhors killing ourselves. Let us shun cultism. I am weeping for my people, seeing the clash coming to town soon."

Another resident of the area, Nweke Harrison Chidi, said "this young man called Bruno Alegu was gunned down today at Onueke Ezza by a cult group. The cult clash which has claimed three people's lives since yesterday has no end in sight."

"As it stands now, nobody is safe at Onueke urban. Rivalry groups are on the rampage

while their opponents are on the run. Some political heavy weights are on the run too. I weep for future of our youths. Our mothers are crying and innocent ones are running.

"Cultists are cursed in Ezza nation and shall forever be cursed. Many have gone. Stay away from cultism and its activities, RIP Bruno".

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Loveth Odah, refused to speak on the issue.



Gunmen