

# How Cultural Festivals Fuel Cult Killings In Anambra



Okey Maduforo

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## Cult War

A popular festival in Anambra State (Imo-Awka Cultural Festival), is expected to be a celebration of culture and homecoming of sons and daughters of the community, but it has turned into a platform for cultists in the state. On May 28, 2023, Araroma junction, in Awka, the capital of Anambra State was charged as residents and traders in the area scampered for safety while others sustained varying degrees of injuries from machete and bullets wounds.

It was gathered that the clash between the rival cult groups started from the venue of a festival at Ifite and spread to Awka, the Capital City of Anambra State, disrupting business and lives.

### Venues as battlefield

According to a resident, who gave his name as Emeka, three men who were members of a cult group were gunned down, on May 22, by a rival cult group who pursued them along Ifiite road and shot two persons dead while in a tricycle, three others were injured.

Emeka said the fight of rival cult groups in Awka, is not new to residents and traders, as the killing by rival cult groups always start two days before the celebration of the festival. He said the groups always take their unhealthy rivalry to South Africa and other European countries where they kill each other, whenever they also come home for such festivals they engage in their supremacy battle.

It is an unfortunate situation in Anambra State as a whole. "It was also gathered that in South Africa the rival cult groups also act as informants for the South African Police by exposing them and accusing each other as drug peddlers, it is a serious issue that requires urgent attention from the government. We have lost so many bright young men and women to this cultism."

"Those in South Africa sometimes come home early to ambush for their rival members and gun down such people in retaliation for what they do to each other before returning to Nigeria." It was also gathered that even in Onitsha, the commercial town, cultism has become the platform upon which young men stand to get revenue contracts either from the government or private companies. The coordinator of Anambra Keke Riders Forum said what they have seen in the last 15 years had been the use of cultists to collect revenue in the state.

Government would award the generation of revenue to a contractor who pays a stipulated amount of money to government coffers and then hire revenue officers to collect the revenue. "I have been a victim of attacks from cultists before now, I was around Ekwueme Square when I was attacked by cultists and they took my money and threatened to kill me if I did not pay them more money." <https://newtelegraphng.com/how-cultural-festivals-fuel-cult-killings-in-anambra/>