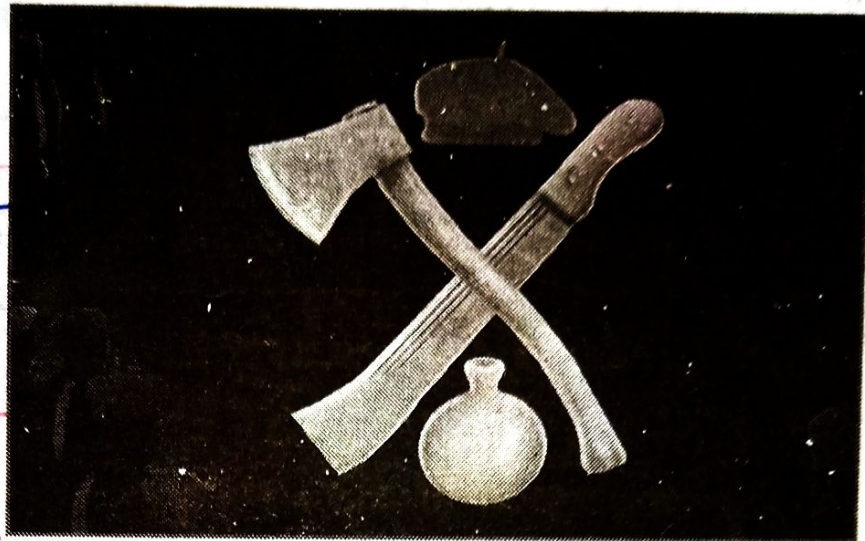


2 Suspected cultists kill vigilance commander in Edo

There was a pandemic in Ekoshodi community, near Benin City, Edo State, during the crossover night, as hoodlums suspected to be cultists



Cult symbol

reportedly killed the vigilance group commander in the area.

It was gathered that the late vigilance commander identified as Osagie, was shot at a Keke Napep park along the Benin-Ore Expressway in Ovia Northeast Local Government Area of the state.

It was further learnt that Osagie's death created tension in the area as the security network and elders in the community banned crossover night service for December 31, 2023.

In a 1:44 seconds viral video seen, a man in handcuffs suspected to be the killer of the vigilance commander was seen entering into the back of a Toyota hilux van led by the police.

In the video, a man believed to be a member of the vigilance group was heard saying, "You killed commander, you have the gut to kill commander. This man is not supposed to live, if I see this man on the street again I will drop my cap."

3 Meanwhile, Osagie's murder came one week after Ogiso community vigilance commander in Oredo Local Government

Area of the state was killed in a similar circumstance on Christmas Eve by hoodlums suspected to be members of a cult group.

A source said the cult group may be targeting vigilance commanders for allegedly hindering their operations in the renewed cult clashes.

Meanwhile, the Edo State Police Command's spokesperson, Chidi Nwabuzor, who confirmed the incident, did not speak on the arrest.

He said according to the wife of the victim, he was trailed to his compound in a black vehicle and was shot on the head by his assailants.

He declined comment on the arrest, saying he would not want to jeopardise police investigation.

Recall that renewed cult war started on December 16, 2023, after suspected cultists stormed the Ogiso residence of their rival and killed his mother when they couldn't find him.

The development was said to have led to reprisals on Christmas Eve leading to the death of four persons across Benin City.