

# Crime

## How killing of Aiye hit man led to reprisals, pitching rival cults against each other

Taiwo Jimoh

...20 killed so far

Following the killing of a man identified simply as Oluaye, a member of Aiye cult group, allegedly by rival Eiye cult group at the Oke-Afo area of Badagry, Lagos State, there has been at least 15 killing of members of the Eiye cult group, believed to be a retaliation on members of Eiye group and the killing has remained unabated.

The death of Oluaye, who was said to be the hit man of Aiye cult group in the Badagry zone, has led to serious retaliation believed to be from his members who are killing Eiye group members randomly in Badagry, Ojo and other parts of the state since August, 2024.

It was learnt that after the death of Oluaye, the killing of rival Eiye cult members has remained unabated across Lagos State.

Some of the areas in the state where rival Eiye cult members have been killed in Lagos include: Ojo, Ibeju-Lekki, Orile Agege, Orile Iganmu, Iyana-Ipaja and Ikorodu.



Some of the suspected cultists

### Genesis

On September 18, 2024, Eiye cult member was reportedly killed by a rival Aiye cult group at Iyana-Ipaja area of the state in broad daylight, while another Eiye member was also shot dead at close range at Oke-Koto, Agege area of the state.

A source in the area told our correspondent that the victim Atare was killed by Eiye group after trailing him to the spot where he was shot dead at Moshalashi Street. Also a non cultist identified as Qudus was also shot in the process.

The source said after the killing of three victims, both Oke-koto and Iyana-Ipaja became tense, with both rival cult members looking out for each other in the community.

The following day after the killing of the three rivals, one Aiye member called Daddy was killed at Iyana-Ipaja by suspected Eiye cult group.

The source also said that on September 20, 2024, at Idi-Iroko, Lagos, an alleged member of Eiye called Gas was killed allegedly by Aiye group. He was said to have been shot in the eye, five Eiye members was said to have earlier being killed by Aiye members in the area with several others injured.

The source added that the clash between Aiye and Eiye has resulted in multiple fatalities since the killing of Oluaye at Oke-Afo area of Badagry.

### Ikorodu

However, on September 14, the clash in Ogo-lonto and other parts of Ikorodu have led to the death of about five Aiye and Eiye members on both sides, the violence was said to have been characterised by brutal attacks, the use of machetes and firearms, creating fear among residents of the community.

According to the source, the clash between Aiye and Eiye has remained unabated as several members of both sides have been killed in a retaliatory manner across Lagos and it has also escalated to Ogun and Oyo states.

He said: "A member of Eiye cult group called Goodluck was mutilated after he was shot at the Majidun, Ogo-lonto area of Ikorodu. The victim was said to have been killed by Aiye members."

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"The Aiye member who led the operation was identified simply as Pako and was said to have engaged in several killings in the area before now. The deceased was said to be friends to many Aiye members, but he was mistaken for Aiye member by the assailants. Another Eiye member called Popular was also killed same day. Goodluck was shot dead."

The source added that Popular was said to have moved out of Ogo-lonto before now, but returned when he noticed the community is calm.

"It is a terrible situation in Ogo-lonto, Majidun and its environs. Every residents of the community are in panic for fear of retaliation from the members of Eiye on Aiye over the death of their members in the community."

### Ijanikin

It was also gathered that majority of the suspected cult members in the community have left for fear of being killed.

On September 20, Ope Olinla, a father of four was allegedly killed by Aiye members and his corpse was taken away by Aiye members for several days, but was later located in a bush.

"The victim was killed at Devine bus

stop along mile 2 road, some of his friends were said to have sustained injuries when they were trying to escape from the scene. The killing also created fear in the minds of residents of the area."

### Ibadan

The violent clash between Aiye and Eiye also escalated to Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, where one Raphael of Eiye was killed on September 17, while Eiye as a result of the death of Raphael declared war on Aiye cult groups in Oyo State.

It was gathered that the following day after Raphael was killed by Aiye members, the Eiye in retaliation also killed a member of Aiye.

The 22-year-old Raphael was shot dead at Ayobowo, opposite University of Ibadan gate, while the Aiye cult member killed in Sango area of the state was identified as Dada. Policemen have been stationed at the Ibadan Polytechnic and University of Ibadan gates to prevent breakdown of law and order in the community."

### Orile Iganmu

It was learnt that a notorious Aiye member identified as Small Mercy escaped from Badagry to Orile Iganmu in August when the heat was much for the cultists in the community.

The rival Eiye cult group members trailed him to Orile Iganmu where he was shot dead by the rival group.

"After he ran to Orile Iganmu, he became notorious and started terrorising residents, it was in the process he attacked a man who is not a cultist and the person still remains in coma at the hospital, he was arrested and later released."

"Few days after he was released from detention, he stabbed an Oodua Peoples Congress member during an argument, since then he has been on the run avoiding arrest."

### Residents

A resident of Ogo-lonto who spoke with our correspondent on condition of anonymity said that the cult members often attack anyone

they perceive as associated with their rivals, regardless of their actual affiliations.

"This indiscriminate violence has left many feeling unsafe in the town, prompting calls for increased police intervention. Residents have urged the authorities to deploy external police forces to effectively address the situation, as they believe local law enforcement are often compromised or ineffective in curbing the violence."

"The army joint security taskforce that we have at Ogo-lonto and Majidun are doing their best, we need reinforcement in the community to tackle the boys, they have members among the vulcanisers, commercial drivers, in primary and secondary schools, it has become a terrible situation to handle."

### Security expert

A security expert, Mr. Femi Adeniji, said, to effectively address and tame cult violence, government should take a decisive action against the various confraternities in the state.

Adeniji said implementing a multifaceted approach that includes education, law enforcement and community support will help a lot in taming cult related issues in the state.

He said: "Governments should prioritise educational programs that inform citizens about the nature of cultism, their recruitment tactics and the psychological manipulation involved. Also, strengthening law enforcement capabilities to investigate and prosecute cult-related crimes is essential."

"This includes not only addressing violent acts, but also dismantling illegal activities associated with cults in every aspect of the law."

"Establishing support systems for individuals who have left cult groups is crucial. This can include psychological counseling, medical assistance, and social services to help reintegrate former members into society and discourage others from joining cults in their communities."

When contact for response, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Benjamin Hundeyin, did not respond to his telephone calls or reply to messages sent to his phone.