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### Renewed Cult War Claims 13 Lives in Edo

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By Adibe Emenyonu in Benin City

A renewed cult clash between members of the Eye confraternity and the Neo-Black Movement of Africa, aka Black Axe confraternity in Edo State has reportedly claimed the lives of 13 persons.

The victims include a 33-year-old man and a father of three, Onosaze Inegbedion, who was said to have been hacked to death around Upper Sokponba area of Benin-city, the state capital.

The cult war which has spanned over three weeks worsened early this week following the reported killing of seven persons in the different parts of the metropolis by unknown gunmen.

A source who confided in THISDAY disclosed that the renewed war started after a disagreement among some motor park touts around New Benin market.

The source further disclosed: "You know because most of these people belong to rival cult groups, they tend to always want to lord it over each other.

"Above all, I think what we are witnessing now is a supremacy battle between these elements," he stated.

When contacted for reaction the state police spokesmen, DSP Joseph Edoghiawerhie, confirmed the wanton killings.

Edoghiawerhie who was silent on whether the bloodletting was cult-related however said the security operatives "are on top of the situation."

"We have sent a strong message to the perpetrators to desist from such inhuman acts because our men are fully on ground.

"They cannot come and rubbish the peaceful coexistence that the people of the state have been enjoying all through the year," he added.

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