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Edo Cult War Casualties Hit 36

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Adibe Emenyonu in Benin City

No less than 36 bodies arising from the one-month cult war between members of Eiye and Black Axe confraternity in Edo State have been deposited at the Benin Central Hospital mortuary.

A morgue attendant in the facility who preferred anonymity, told THISDAY last night that from the hospital's records, it had received 36 corpses with bullet wounds since the beginning of December.

"I am surprised that the police are saying only six deaths have been recorded. My brother, we are tired. As at the last count, it was 36. "The last one that was brought to this morgue was so bad that his skull was opened into two parts, I could not eat when I got home," the official stated.

The lingering cult clash, THISDAY gathered, took a turn for the worse on 2014 Christmas Eve with the reported killing of four persons at different locations in Benin City, the Edo State capital. There are conflicting reports on what led to the renewed clashes. While one account had it that the clash was started over a supremacy battle by some motor park touts, others anchored the bloodletting on the use of an opposing cult symbol by a member of a rival cult group during a birthday party.

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