

Cult clashes claim 5 lives in Benin

By Simon Ebegbulem

BENIN—MORE than ten persons have been reportedly killed in Benin, in the last one week, following a renewed cult clash between rival cult groups from different higher institutions in the state.

Vanguard learnt that the war is between the Eiye and the Black Axe Confraternities. It was said that the crisis started one week ago when a leader of one of the rival cult members was murdered around Ekenwa road. After the attack, *Vanguard* learnt that the second in command to the murdered leader was also attacked in a night club last weekend and was murdered after he tried to escape.

Last Tuesday, some persons suspected to be members of rival cult groups engaged themselves in a shoot out in Ekosodin village, near the University Of Benin (UNIBEN). It was learnt that three persons were shot dead in the fracas while

a 200 level Engineering student was seriously wounded and he is present receiving treatment at the intensive care of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH).

Vanguard further gathered that two students from yet to be identified school in the state, were shot dead along mission Thursday night, while two were also found dead in different parts of the state. Though the police in the state confirmed that four had been killed so far but *Vanguard* reliably gathered that over ten have been killed.

Contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Peter Ogboi, disclosed that four persons have so far been arrested over the killings. He expressed worries over the incident and explained that the police had infiltrated all the campuses in the state in order to bring all those behind the incident to book.