

10 killed as cultists clash in Osun

By Shina Abubakar

O SOGBO—ABOUT 10 persons were reportedly killed when two rival cult groups clashed in Ilesa, Osun State, Monday, but the police said five persons were killed.

A source said the killings were a reprisal attack for the killing in Odogbo-Ijesa on Saturday.

An eyewitness, Adeosun Azeez, said the clash started from the Irojo area of the town around 7 pm before it spread to other communities like Brewery,

Ifofin, Idasa, where the cultists have a stronghold.

The source said: "Some guys on a motorcycle started shooting around Irojo inflicting injuries on residents, who scampered for safety. Then in what looks like a revenge attack, another set confronted them and both groups engaged in a shootout.

"Other cultists from other hideouts joined in the fracas, thereby spreading the crisis to other parts of the town. About 10 people were killed in different parts

of the town, majority cult members."

Shop owners quickly locked their shops, while residents also ran for safety, thereby deserting the major streets in the town.

However, while confirming the incident, Osun police command spokesperson, Yemisi Opalola, said only five persons were killed in the cult war.

"More special police units have been deployed to the hotspots to further curb breakdown of law and order," she said.