

Table 4: Cult Clashes in Edo State (September 2018-February 2020)

S/ N	Date	Location	Cult Groups Involved	Number Killed
2	September 3, 2018	Auchi, Etsako West Local Government area; Upper Uwa, Isiemwerho between 1 st and 2 nd East Circular Road; Uwhene Ugbague Road; Oliha Market, Ore-Oghene	Black Axe versus Maphites	Five persons killed
3	September 16, 2018	Judges Quarters, Ekpoma	Unnamed cult groups	Two persons killed
4	September 19, 2018	Judges Quarters, Ekpoma	Unnamed cult groups	Two students
5	October 15, 2018	Iyobosa Street, off M.M. Way; Isibor Street off Sokponba; Alohan Junction off Erediauwa by Sapele Road, Benin City	Unnamed cult groups	Two persons killed
6	January 9, 2019	Ogida area; Ugbor area in GRA, Benin City	Unnamed cult groups	Four persons killed
7	February 21, 2019	Oluku; Omozeghiam street, off Okhoro road; Upper Uwa Street, off M.M. Way, Benin City.	Black Axe versus Eiye	Twelve persons killed
8	February 21, 2019	Omozeghian Street, off Okhoro Road; Odemwingie Hotel, Upper Sakponba, Benin City	Unnamed cult groups	Three persons killed
9	March 19, 2019	Oba Akenzua Secondary School, Benin City	Unnamed cult groups	No death
10	May 9, 2019	Iyobosa Street, opposite Edo College; Etiosa by Lucky Junction; Agbor Road near NNPC Depot; Ekiosa along Murtala Muhammed Way; ICC; Isibor junction, adjacent to St Saviour Road; Idaho Street, off Sakponba road, Benin City.	Eiye versus Black Axe	Eleven persons killed
11	August 29, 2019	Uhie, Okha 1 and Okha 2, along Sapele Road, Ikpoba-Okha LGA	Unnamed cult groups	Five persons killed
12	September 24, 2019	Sabo (Ibie-Iyakpe village), Auchi, in Etsako West LGA.	Black Axe versus Jurist	Seven persons

				killed
13	November 8, 2019	Wire and Siluko roads; Isihor area, Osasogie and Adolor areas of Ugbowo; Uwasota; Gani Fawehinmi Layout, Isinoro, Benin City.	Maphites, Black Axe and Eiye	Eight persons killed
14	December 12, 2019	Benin City	Maphites, Black Axe and Eiye	Thirty persons killed
15	February 21, 2020	Osemwende Street junction at Murtala Muhammed Way; and St. Saviour Road, MM Way, by Osa Market; Edo State Property Development Authority, EDPA, along Sakponba Road; Nomayo junction; Aifuwa and Three House area, along Upper Sakponba, Benin City.	Black Axe versus Eiye	Ten persons killed
16	February 21, 2020	Auchi, Etsako West LGA	Vikings versus Black Axe	No death

From Table 4 above, cult violent activities spread across the three senatorial districts of the state as shown by cases of clashes in Benin, Auchi, and Ekpoma among others. Also, most clashes between cult members are deadly. Out of the 16 cases captured on the table above, only two of them did not record any death. However, cult clashes are more rampant in Benin. There are three plausible explanations for this. First, Benin City has a larger population than other towns in the state and perhaps more cult members because the most dominant cult group in the State, Black Axe, was formed in Benin. Second, most headquarters of cult groups in the state are domiciled in Benin City, where decisions to strike are taken by the leaders of the confraternities. Three, most cult members converge in Benin City, the administrative headquarters of the state to access patronage from politicians.

Similarly, our discussants in Ekpoma held that Yahoo Boys have transformed into ritual killers known as Yahoo Plus. When broke, they also mutate as armed robbers and kidnappers. A key informant revealed that in the last six months, corpses of ladies have been discovered at Wire Road, Sapele Road, and Ikpoba Hill (all in Benin City) with their breasts, private parts (virginals), and eyes removed. Indeed, some Yahoo