

# Oyo: Police arrest suspected cultist for alleged murder

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Oyo Police Command has arrested a 32-year-old man, Azeez Monsuru, for his alleged involvement in the murder of one Ayangbile Oladapo, also known as 'Ijaya', which occurred on July 7, 2025.

The Command's spokesman, CSP Adewale Osifeso, who spoke on behalf of the Commissioner of Police, Femi Haruna, disclosed this on Friday while briefing journalists on the achievements made in ridding the state of criminals.

According to the PPRO, Monsuru, resident at Moniya area of Ibadan, was apprehended by operatives of the Command's Anti-Cultism Unit on September 25, at about 2 am.

Recovered from him were a locally-made firearm and three live cartridges.

During interrogation, Monsuru was said to have admitted to fatally shooting the victim twice before his death on July 7, 2025, at Abiola area of Moniya Community.

The suspect also confessed to his membership of Eiye Confraternity, in addition to claiming ownership of the recovered firearm.

Also arrested was one Moses Eke, who specialised in the unlawful removal of vehicles from parking locations.

According to the PPRO, on October 4, at about 6 pm., the suspect went to a Toyota Corolla car with registration number BDJ 44 BG, which was parked on Queen Elizabeth Road in Ibadan, and used a master key to gain access into the vehicle.

After an unsuccessful attempt to kickstart the car, the suspect resorted to removing the car's brain box and other essential components.

However, vigilant passersby who noticed the theft raised the alarm, apprehended the suspect, and handed him over to the Yemetu Division.

He was subsequently transferred to the Command's Monitoring Unit, where he confessed to the crime.

Another arrested suspect, Babatunde Awopetu, reportedly posed as an automobile technician, pretended to want to effect a minor repair on a newly-bought Tokunbo Toyota Camry brought to him by the owner on Sunday, September 28, 2025.

However, the suspect absconded with the vehicle, which made the victim report the incident to a team of police officers assigned to Operation Restore Peace at Agodi area.

The Oyo Command's spokesman said that the matter was referred to the Monitoring Unit and its operatives trailed the suspect to a hideout in Ibadan, where he was apprehended, while the car was recovered from Ilesa, Osun State.

The Oyo Command also succeeded in apprehending two "one chance" robbery suspects, Sakiru Adeniran and Johnson Bamidele.

The Command's image maker said that one of the suspects who posed as a driver picked a passenger (names withheld) in a Micra vehicle with registration number NRK 928 XC at Iwo Road.

The 'driver' also picked up two other passengers, unknown to the victim, who were members of the "one chance" gang.

They were reported to have stopped at a secluded place, pointed a gun at the victim, dispossessed him of his phone and other valuables, and forcibly ejected him from the vehicle.

Nemesis, however, caught up with them when they encountered traffic, enabling those in their pursuit to apprehend them. They were thereafter handed over to law enforcement for further investigation.

Also arrested was a suspected fraudster, Adam Usman, found with counterfeit foreign currencies in pounds and dollars.

Speaking on the emerging security challenges within the state, the Commissioner of Police said that the Command had been engaged in maintaining relative peace and stability in communities.

He attributed the successes achieved to the professionalism and commitment of officers, added to the collaboration from associated agencies, media outlets, and other security partners.

CP Haruna noted the re-emergence of "one-chance" criminals in certain metropolitan areas, saying that reported incidents "often involve individuals entering vehicles at unauthorised locations, which significantly increases safety risks and may result in assaults, kidnappings, or worse.

"We strongly advise all commuters to prioritise their safety by only boarding vehicles at officially designated parks and stops."

The police boss also called attention to the increasing reckless driving behaviours observed among some tricycle operators on major roadways, particularly along the Iwo Road-Toll Gate Highway and routes such as Ojoo, Challenge, and Kajorepo, which had raised much concern.

He said that the Command would enhance law enforcement in such areas, urging all drivers to comply with traffic regulations to ensure public safety.

As we approach World Anti-Counterfeiting Day on October 16, 2025, the Oyo State Police

The Commissioner of Police reaffirmed the Command's dedication to effective collaboration with relevant agencies in the fight against criminal activities that exploit the public, particularly in sectors such as financial services, manufacturing, and pharmaceuticals.

He enjoined parents, guardians, and influential community leaders to encourage their children and wards to refrain from engaging in activities that could jeopardise their future, particularly in relation to cultism.

In addition, with the concern attached to ember months, CP Haruna has also instructed all Area Commanders, Divisional Police Officers, and heads of Tactical units to intensify security operations within their respective jurisdictions, in order to deter criminals from finding a safe haven in the state.