Delta: Police arrest suspect over alleged murder of retired female judge

Alphonsus Agborh November 30, 2025

One person has been arrested by the police in Delta State, while another is on the run in connection with the murder of a retired female judge in Asaba, Justice Ifeoma Okogwu, last week Monday.

According to the state police command on Sunday, one Lucky Matthew is in custody, while the principal suspect, Godwin Vanem, who is currently at large, is believed to have committed the act before fleeing the apartment.

The command has launched a manhunt for him.

The Nigerian Tribune reports that the judge was killed in a suspicious manner on Sunday night at her residence opposite the Stephen Keshi Stadium in the Delta State capital, with her legs, hands, and face tightly bound, and her entire apartment thoroughly ransacked.

A member of the late jurist's family reportedly alerted the police on Monday morning, stating that the night security guard stationed at the judge's home had disappeared, while the guard on the morning shift claimed he met the gate wide open when he resumed duty.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police, Delta State, **Olufemi Abaniwonda**, has commiserated with the family of the murdered judge and assured them of justice.

A statement issued on Sunday by the state Police Public Relations Officer, **SP Bright Edafe**, stated:

“On the 24th of November 2025, the DPO ‘A’ Division, Asaba, received a complaint from the brother of Justice Ifeoma Okogwu (Rtd) that he visited her residence only to discover her lifeless body in the sitting room with her hands, legs, and mouth tied.

“Upon receipt of the complaint, the DPO swiftly led officers to her residence, where the corpse was evacuated and taken to the mortuary for autopsy.

“One suspect, Lucky Matthew, has been arrested, while the principal suspect, Godwin Vanem, is presently at large.

“On the directive of the Commissioner of Police, Olufemi Abaniwonda, the case has been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (Homicide Section) for discreet investigation.”