

Suspects arrested for beheading 69-year-old Anambra woman

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Police Officer

| Johnson Idowu and Ikenna Obianeri

The Anambra State Police Command has arrested a prime suspect identified as Obadigbo Emmanuel Anumudu, 'M', aged 46 years, for allegedly beheading a 69-year-old woman, Mrs Obianuju Akubi, in Umuleri, Anambra East Local Government Area of the state.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the suspect, who had been on the run since 2024 after he gruesomely murdered and beheaded the victim, was arrested on Saturday.

This was disclosed in a press statement released by the state police command spokesman, SP Tochukwu Ikenga, on Sunday.

Ikenga stated that the operatives of the state command attached to the Rapid Response Squad, Awkuzu, arrested the suspect after credible information.

The statement read in part, “Operatives of the Anambra State Police Command attached to the Rapid Response Squad, Awkuzu, acting on credible information, on Saturday, October 4, 2025, stormed Aguleri and arrested the prime suspect, Obadigbo Emmanuel Anumudu, ‘M’, aged 46 years.

“The suspect had allegedly been on the run since July 22, 2024, after he gruesomely murdered and beheaded Mrs Obianuju Akubi, a 69-year-old woman in Umuleri.

“During interrogation, the suspect confessed to the crime and further mentioned members of his gang who participated in the murder and beheading.

“He also disclosed the whereabouts of the victim’s head, which was taken away after the heinous act.”

According to Ikenga, intensive efforts are ongoing to track down and arrest the remaining gang members to ensure that justice is served.

He added that further developments will be communicated in due course.

In a subsequent statement, the PPRO stated that two other suspects were arrested by local security stakeholders and were awaiting official handover to the police.

Ikenga continued, “Meanwhile, two additional suspects, identified as Mr Joseph Udezuo (aka Boss) and Chukwuemeka Nworah (aka Odumodu), have also been arrested by local security stakeholders and are awaiting formal handover to the police for further investigation and possible prosecution.”

He expressed the command’s appreciation to the security stakeholders, which he attributed to the breakthrough in the arrests.

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The PPRO urged residents to shun self-help in resolving civil matters such as land disputes.

“The CP reiterates that land cases are pure civil cases and encourages groups and persons to be patient with the court proceedings rather than resorting to self-help, emphasising that such actions only lead to avoidable loss of lives and property.

“He further reassured residents of the command’s unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and security of lives and property across Anambra State, urging the public to continue providing timely and credible information to the Police and other security agencies,” Ikenga concluded.

Land disputes have been a persistent source of violence in many communities across Nigeria.

PUNCH Metro reported in June 2025 that armed thugs reportedly killed two persons and injured others in an alleged land conflict in the state.

Also, a recent case involved a 45-year-old man, Okwuchukwu Ezimuo, who was arrested for stabbing a 65-year-old relative to death during a land dispute in Awka-Etiti, Anambra.

These incidents illustrate a troubling pattern of land conflicts escalating into violent crimes in the region.

PUNCH Metro had reported on May 13, 2024, that the people of the Ojoto community in Idemili South Local Government Area of Anambra State protested over the killing of a 69-year-old widow and indigene of the community, identified as Ifeoma Ajuluchukwu.

The deceased was said to have been murdered by her stepson, who happened to be the first son of the first wife of the deceased's husband.

Speaking on behalf of the protesters, the leader of the group, Emeka Nwabunike, said they came to express their grievances and also appeal for justice following the alleged gruesome murder of the widow.

Nwabunike said the people of Ojoto had heard from all the parties and also conducted an independent investigation, after which they found out that the widow was "gruesomely murdered".

He said, "We plead with the commissioner to use her good offices to get justice for the slain widow. Her immediate intervention in the matter spurred us into carrying out further investigations on our own.