

# 13 suspects arrested over Edo resident's death

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File photo: Nigerian Police

By Adeyinka Adedipe

The Edo State Police Command on Thursday said its personnel had arrested 13 suspects in connection with the crisis that erupted after the killing of 23-year-old Chigozie Ifeonu in the Ogheghe Community, Upper Siluko Road, Benin.

The clash, which took place on Wednesday, started when a youth of Northern extraction was said to have stabbed the deceased over a deal that went sour.

The killing sparked outrage as youths stormed the streets with dangerous weapons in a bid to avenge the killing.

An eyewitness, who pleaded to remain anonymous, said many of the Hausa boys were injured in a reprisal, while others fled for safety as the police used teargas canisters to disperse the angry youths.



The source said, “I can’t really say when the deceased was stabbed to death by the Hausa youth over a deal that did not go right. But I can confirm that it brought a clash between the Benin boys and the Hausa youths.

“Many of the Hausa youths who ride Okada, do petty trading and clear land for land owners, were off the street. Some of them had to abandon their business for fear of being lynched to death.

“Policemen who were deployed to the area fired tear gas to disperse the angry youths. If not for police intervention, the situation would have been worse.

Another source, who gave his name simply as John, said the deceased gave a motorcycle on hire purchases to the Hausa boy who bolted with the bike and relocated to another part of the local government.

The source said, “The Hausa boy stabbed Ifeonu when he (deceased) tried to reclaim the motorcycle he gave to him on a hire purchase deal.

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“The Hausa guy relocated to another part of the local government after he was given the bike to pay for it in instalments. It’s unfortunate that this happened.

In a video that circulated on Thursday, the Hausa quarter in the area was burnt down. Youths were also seen beating two Hausa youths with planks.

However, the police, in a statement by Deputy Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Eno Ikoedem, stated that the deceased was rushed to the University of Benin Hospital, where he was confirmed dead by a medical doctor.

The statement read, “The Edo State Police Command wishes to inform the general public that normalcy has been restored to Ogheghe Community, Upper Siluko Road, Benin City, following a violent incident that occurred on 28th October, 2025, at about 1645hrs.

“One male victim, Chigozie Ifeonu, ‘m’, aged 23 years, was stabbed in the chest during the disturbance. He was immediately rushed to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital for medical attention, where he was unfortunately confirmed dead by a medical doctor. His corpse has since been deposited at the UBTH mortuary for preservation and autopsy.

“Swift response by the Area Commander Ekiadolor Area Command, ACP Garba Umaru, alongside Operation Rescue Teams, and operatives from Ogida Division, and other command tactical teams ensured the immediate restoration of peace and protection of lives and property in the area.

“A total of 13 suspects have been arrested in connection with the incident, while the case has been transferred to the Homicide Section, State Criminal Investigation Department, Benin City, for discreet investigation.”

The Commissioner of Police, Edo State Command, CP Monday Agbonika, commiserated with the family of the deceased and assured the public that justice would be served.

He appealed to residents of Ogheghe and its environs to remain calm, vigilant, and law-abiding, as the command remains committed to maintaining peace and order across the state.

**| Adeyinka Adedipe**