

# Rivers lawyer, others arrested for shooting during masquerader festival

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File photo of SP Grace Iringe-Koko, Spokesperson for the Rivers State Police Command

By Dennis Naku

The Rivers State Police Command has arrested a lawyer following a shooting during a masquerade display in Omoku, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area, which left one person dead and eight others injured.

Spokesperson for the state police command, Grace Iringe-Koko, said the incident occurred on Monday when some youths carrying out a masquerade display clashed with the lawyer, identified as Akpudi Ikechukwu, and officials of the Nigeria Forest Guards.

“The altercation escalated and resulted in a shooting and casualties,” Iringe-Koko said in a statement issued on Tuesday.

She added that aside from the lawyer, two others linked to the incident had been arrested, and the trio was currently in police custody.

The statement partly reads: “The Rivers State Police Command has commenced an investigation into a shooting incident that occurred in the early hours of Monday, January 19, 2026, along Sambo Street, Omoku, which resulted in one fatality and multiple injuries.

“At about 07:00 hours, a report was received at the Omoku Police Division through credible sources stating that at about 0130 hours, while some youths were masquerading along Sambo Street, a confrontation occurred involving one Barrister Akpudi Ikechukwu and four personnel of the Nigeria Forest Guards Security Service.

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“During the incident, nine members of the masquerade group sustained gunshot injuries. One of the victims, identified as Obulo, was confirmed dead at the Hospital in Omoku, while eight others are currently receiving medical treatment at the same facility.

“Following the incident, Barrister Akpudi Ikechukwu and two other suspects were promptly arrested and transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department for detailed investigation.”

CSP Iringe-Koko said preliminary investigations are ongoing to determine the circumstances and the level of culpability of all parties involved.

She also noted that the Area Commander has personally addressed aggrieved youths in the community to calm tensions and prevent a breakdown of law and order.

“A joint security patrol comprising the Police and the Military has been deployed in the area to ensure the safety of lives and property. The Rivers State Police Command assures the public that all those found culpable will be brought to justice,” the statement added.