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## Rivers vigilante leader, two others arrested

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt



•Iringe-Koko. Photo: File

**T**HE Rivers State Police Command has arrested three persons, including the leader of a local vigilante group, for allegedly torturing a man identified simply as Ghadafi to death in Ahoada West Local Government Area of the state.

The suspects were reportedly intercepted while attempting to dispose of the victim's body last Saturday.

Those arrested were identified as the vigilante chairman, Joshua; his colleague, Silas; and a motorcycle rider, Obed Godlove.

Sources told PUNCH Metro that the suspects had accused the deceased of stealing palm fruits before allegedly assaulting and torturing him.

Security operatives and community youths reportedly became suspicious after sighting the trio transporting what appeared to be a lifeless body on a motorcycle and trailed them to an isolated area.

Photographs and videos of the corpse seen by our correspondent showed the victim's hands and legs bound with ropes, while he was stripped naked.

The Chief Security Officer of Ukpeliede Community, Osiga King, said local security volunteers had been on patrol due to recent security concerns when they noticed the suspects' movements.

"At about 1:30 pm, we

saw a motorcycle carrying someone who looked lifeless. We followed them and discovered they had dropped a corpse in our community," he said.

King explained that the suspects allegedly attempted to relocate the body to another spot but were intercepted by local security personnel, who alerted soldiers, the police and other security agencies.

He said the trio later confessed to torturing the deceased over allegations of theft.

"They claimed he had been stealing palm fruits and other items in the community," King added.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations

on its website and seen by PUNCH Metro on Monday, total disregard for the law. ActionSA will continue to support every decisive and lawful measure to dismantle

## for torturing man to death

Officer, Grace Iring-Koko, confirmed the incident and the arrests.

She said, "The suspects have been arrested, and the investigation is ongoing."

The victim was assaulted by community youths, which led to his death."

## Police arrest three suspected cultists

Olaoluwa Alo

**T**HE Oyo State Police Command has arrested three suspected members of the Aiye Confraternity after disrupting a cult meeting allegedly held within the premises of a secondary school in Oyo town.

The command's Public Relations Officer, Olayinka Ayanlade, disclosed this in a statement on Monday, stating that the arrests followed credible intelligence about the gathering.

According to him, operatives of the Atiba



•Exhibits. Photo: Police

Division, led by the Divisional Police Officer, Femi Haruna, mobilised to Bode Thomas Secondary School, where about 30

individuals dressed in black were reportedly converging for a suspected secret cult meeting.

On sighting the police, the group fled into nearby bushes, while three suspects were apprehended.

Those arrested were identified as Jelili Taiwo Kazeem, 20; Toheeb Adediran, 25; and Ayomide Taiwo, 23.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Adediran, a commercial motorcycle rider, allegedly transported some of the suspected cult members to the venue. His

## man nabbed for defiling 12-year-old girl

## One killed, seven others abducted in