

21-year-old suspected armed robber killed in Anambra raid

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Exhibits. Photo: Police

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The Anambra State Police Command has neutralised a 21-year-old suspected armed robber and notorious cultist, Chukwuka Solomon, during an early-morning security operation in Awka, the state capital.

According to a statement issued on Tuesday by the Command's spokesperson, SP Tochukwu Ikenga, operatives of the Special Anti-Cultism Squad, Enugu-Ukwu, carried out the raid in the early hours of Monday at the Amikwo community in Awka South Local Government Area.

Ikenga said the suspect was killed after attempting to escape during a search of his hideout. A pump-action gun, two locally made pistols and some expanded ammunition were recovered from the scene.

He added that the operatives also repelled an ambush by other gang members during the operation, noting that blood stains at the location indicated that some of the hoodlums fled with varying degrees of bullet injuries.

The police spokesman disclosed that Solomon had initially been arrested through the efforts of residents of the Amikwo community, who handed him over to the police on allegations that he was a cultist terrorising the area with firearms.

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During interrogation, the suspect reportedly confessed to being a member of the Supreme Vikings Confraternity, also known as “Baggars,” and admitted possessing operational weapons belonging to the group.

He also allegedly revealed that he worked for a notorious figure popularly known as “Aza Man,” said to be behind criminal activities in Awka and its environs.

Ikenga said the police are currently acting on leads provided by the suspect to arrest the gang leader and other members of the group.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police, Ikioye Orutugu, reiterated the command’s commitment to stamping out cultism, armed robbery and other violent crimes in the state, assuring residents that further developments would be communicated in due course.

PUNCH Metro had earlier reported that the Anambra State Police Command arrested five suspected armed robbers allegedly involved in vandalism and theft at a company in Agulu, Anaocha Local Government Area of the state.