

Police nab four vigilantes for killing, robbery in Niger

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File photo: Police officer

By Chika Otuchikere

Police in Niger State have arrested four vigilante operatives over the abduction, killing and robbery of a 32-year-old man, Umar Bingel, in Kontagora Local Government Area.

Bingel, a resident of the Dadin-Kowa area, was reportedly abducted while returning home from the market after selling his cattle. He was said to have been dispossessed of his motorcycle and N1.5 million, believed to be proceeds from the sale.

Following a report at the Kontagora Police Station, operatives launched an investigation that led to the arrest of three vigilante members, Suleiman Umar, Tanko Sale and Rabiou Bako.

The spokesperson for the Niger State Police Command, Wasiu Abiodun, confirmed the incident in a statement on Tuesday.

During interrogation, the suspects reportedly confessed to having knowledge of the crime and disclosed that the victim was killed by another vigilante group allegedly led by two suspects identified as Danbaba and Smalli of Farin-Shinge village in the area.

Police later arrested the principal suspect, Danbaba, who reportedly led officers to the scene where Bingel was killed and his body dumped in a pit. The decomposed remains were recovered and taken to the General Hospital in Kontagora before being released to the family for burial.

Items recovered during the operation included the victim's Bajaj motorcycle, three locally made guns, two dane guns and four rounds of 7.62mm live ammunition.

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“On February 12, 2026, at about 4 p.m., a report was received that one Umar Bingel, 32 years, of the Dadin-Kowa area of Kontagora, was abducted by suspected vigilante men to an unknown location while returning from the market.

“The victim was abducted with his motorcycle and a sum of one million, five hundred thousand naira, being proceeds of the sale of his cows. Police operatives attached to Kontagora Area Command commenced an investigation, which led to the arrest of Suleiman Umar, Tanko Sale and Rabiun Bako, all vigilante members.

“In the course of interrogation, they confessed to having knowledge of the group responsible and stated that the victim was killed by a vigilante group led by Danbaba and Smalli of Farin-Shinge village. The principal suspect, Danbaba, was later arrested on February 15, 2026, and he led operatives to the scene where the victim was killed and dumped in a pit,” Abiodun stated.

Police said the suspects remain under investigation and will be transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department in Minna for prosecution.

Recall that in January, the Oyo State Police Command arrested two suspected armed robbers in Ibadan, the state capital.

The Command Police Public Relations Officer, Olayinka Ayanlade, disclosed that the arrest followed credible intelligence and an intense manhunt, which culminated in a well-coordinated, intelligence-led operation carried out within the Ibadan metropolis.