

Police arrest Rivers murder suspect, exhume victim's body

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

By Dennis Naku

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The Rivers State Police Command has arrested a 29-year-old man, Robinson Uche, over his alleged involvement in the murder of a 42-year-old man, Shedrack Ogadinma Chukwem.

The police said the suspect, alongside four others still at large, was allegedly hired by a monarch, identified as Chief Elijah Okere, to bring the deceased to his palace.

Spokesperson for the command, Grace Iringe-Koko, disclosed this in a statement issued on Wednesday in Port Harcourt, the state capital.

According to the statement, Uche was tracked and arrested at about 7:30 a.m. on March 6, 2026, by operatives of the Anti-Cultism Unit, Emuoha Annex, following sustained investigation.

During interrogation, the suspect reportedly confessed to participating in the crime, which occurred on December 17, 2025, in Igbo-Etche, Etche Local Government Area.

He allegedly told investigators that he and four others—identified as Prince (aka “Onyia-Army”), Achor, Gift Okere (aka “Nnaye”), and another yet-to-be-identified accomplice—were contracted to bring the victim to the palace.

The police said the attempt to apprehend the victim at a family meeting was resisted, leading to a confrontation during which the group allegedly opened fire, killing him.

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“The suspect further stated that in the course of the encounter, the group shot the deceased, resulting in his death,” the statement read.

Iringe-Koko added that the suspects subsequently transported the body to a bush at Ekerre-Ugbor, where it was buried in a shallow grave.

Following the confession, the suspect led operatives to the site, where the remains were exhumed and deposited at the Military Hospital mortuary for autopsy.

The police said efforts were ongoing to apprehend the fleeing suspects, including the monarch alleged to have orchestrated the act.

The Commissioner of Police, Olugbenga Adepaju, assured residents that the command remained committed to ensuring justice and would pursue all those connected to the crime.

When contacted on whether the monarch had been arrested, the police spokesperson said, “Not yet, but efforts are ongoing to arrest him.”