

Police arrest four suspected kidnappers linked to Ondo attack

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The four suspects...Photo Credit: Ondo Police Command

| By Samuel Omotere

The Nigeria Police Force in Ondo State has arrested four suspected kidnappers linked to a violent attack along Liberty Avenue in Ilu-Abo that led to the death of a resident and the abduction of a woman.

The suspects were arrested by operatives of the Ondo State Police Command following intelligence reports that they were lodging in a hotel behind Ado Garage in Akure.

This was disclosed in a statement on Friday by the Police Public Relations Officer of the command, Abayomi Jimoh.

According to the statement, the operation was carried out by the command's tactical teams in collaboration with the Ondo State Security Network Agency, also known as Amotekun Corps.



The recovered ransom from the syndicate...Photo Credit: Ondo Police Command

Jimoh said the suspects were arrested in connection with the January 26 attack along Liberty Avenue in Ilu-Abo, which resulted in the death of one John Ofuduwa and the kidnapping of a woman, Oladeinde Tomilola, who was later released.

“The Command, under the leadership of the Commissioner of Police, Adebowale Lawal, has arrested four suspected kidnappers linked to the incident following credible intelligence,” the statement read.

The suspects were identified as 20-year-old Abdullahi Ismaila, 25-year-old Babanyara Japi, 25-year-old Babuga Abubakar, and 15-year-old Adama Usman.

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“During the operation, the suspects were found in possession of the sum of One Million Four Hundred Thousand Naira (₦1,400,000), strongly suspected to be proceeds of ransom obtained from kidnapping activities,” the statement added.

According to the police, preliminary investigations revealed that the suspects confessed to being members of a criminal syndicate operating around the Eleyowo, Ilu-Abo and Ogbese areas.

The police also disclosed that the victim who was abducted during the incident was able to identify the suspects.

“Furthermore, the victim, Oladeinde, was able to positively identify the suspects and has expressed appreciation to the Command for its response and efforts leading to their arrest,” Jimoh said.

The command noted that further investigations were ongoing to determine the suspects’ involvement in other criminal activities.

“Efforts are also ongoing to track down other members of the criminal network and establish whether the suspects are connected to other previously reported kidnapping incidents in the state,” the statement added.

The Commissioner of Police, Adebowale Lawal, reaffirmed the command’s commitment to tackling kidnapping, robbery and other violent crimes across the state.

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