

Police arrest cultists linked to murder in Delta

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File Copy: Delta State Commissioner of Police, Aina Adesola

By Dele Ogunyemi

Officers of the CP-Special Assignment Team of the Delta State Police Command have arrested suspected cult leaders linked to a murder case in Ughelli, headquarters of Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta State.

The suspects were arrested during separate operations carried out in Asaba, where assorted firearms were also recovered.

This was disclosed in a statement issued on Tuesday by the Police Public Relations Officer, Bright Edafe.

According to the statement, following ongoing investigations into a case of conspiracy, cultism, and murder connected to a cult-related killing that occurred on January 15, at the Iwhrekpokpo area of Ughelli Town, operatives of the CP-SAT led by Julius Robinson, acting on credible intelligence, at about 11:30hrs on March 6, stormed a hotel in the Ekuigbo area of Ughelli Town where the principal suspects were reported to be hiding.

“The operation led to the arrest of Joshua Okpogona ‘m’ (30 years) of Okwarabe Community, identified as the current Ughelli leader of the Supreme Vikings Confraternity and the alleged mastermind behind the killing.

“Also arrested was Raphael Omokerhe ‘m’ (37 years), popularly known as ‘Black Python,’ identified as the immediate past leader of the same cult group.

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“Investigation is ongoing, and efforts are being intensified to apprehend other fleeing suspects connected to the crime,” the statement read.

In another intelligence-driven operation aimed at dismantling criminal networks in the state capital, operatives of CP-SAT at about 4:35hrs on March 8 stormed a criminal hideout at Umunaji area near Stop Abortion Junction in Asaba, leading to the arrest of 22-year-old Chukwudi Ekenna .

According to the police, a search conducted at the hideout led to the recovery of one fabricated Beretta pistol, two locally made cut-to-size guns and 10 live cartridges believed to have been used for cult-related and armed robbery activities within Asaba and its environs.

The police added that the suspect is in custody and has provided useful information aiding efforts to apprehend other members of the criminal network.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police in the state, Aina Adesola, reassured residents of the command’s determination to sustain the ongoing crackdown on cultism and other crimes.

He urged the public to “continue supporting the police with credible, timely information,” noting that “community cooperation remains critical to ensuring a safer Delta State.”

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