

# Two Bauchi cousins arrested over nine-year-old boy's death

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By Salisu Kabuga

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The Bauchi State Police Command has arrested two suspects, Yahaya Zubairu, 20, and Babangida Muhammad, 20, over the suspected kidnapping and murder of a nine-year-old boy, Barhama Abubakar.

This was disclosed in a statement issued on Wednesday by the state Police Public Relations Officer, Nafiu Habib, and obtained by *PUNCH Metro*.

Habib disclosed that the suspects are relatives of the victim and live in the same compound.

He also revealed that the victim was kidnapped on March 21, 2026, and a ransom of N1,000,000 was demanded.

However, the police swung into action, arrested the suspects, and recovered the victim's decomposed body.

"The victim's decomposed body was recovered, and a medical examination confirmed his death," the statement read.

Habib said the suspects allegedly conspired to kidnap and kill the victim by tying his neck and legs, which led to his death.

The PPRO stated, “Babangida, a cousin of the victim, lured him by asking him to buy biscuits and deliver them to him at a designated primary school, where the duo picked him up and took him to the scene of the crime.”

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He added that the suspects confessed to the crime, stating that “they targeted the victim’s father, believing he had a lot of money.”

He urged parents and guardians to remain vigilant and report suspicious activities.

“The Commissioner of Police, Sani-Omolori Aliyu, urges parents and guardians to be vigilant and report suspicious activities,” he said.

Furthermore, the PPRO confirmed that the investigation is ongoing and that the case will be transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department.

The police command reiterated its commitment to bringing the perpetrators to justice and ensuring the safety and security of citizens.

Habib, therefore, appealed to the public to provide information that could lead to the arrest of other suspects involved in similar crimes.

In March, the Oyo State Police Command re-arrested a suspected kidnapper who had earlier escaped from police custody.

The Police Public Relations Officer for the command, DSP Ayanlade Olayinka, said the suspect was apprehended on March 17, 2026, at about 11:30pm by operatives attached to the Ojongbodu Area Command during a routine stop-and-search patrol.