

Oyo motorcyclist dies during police stop-and-search

April 30, 2026 12:09 am



A Nigerian policeman

Uthman Salami and Olaoluwa Alo

The Oyo State Police Command has confirmed the death of a motorcyclist, Sanni Salisu, during an encounter with police officers in the Moniya area of Ibadan—an incident that sparked unrest and led to the burning of a police outpost.

The incident occurred on April 24, 2026, at about 11:00am, when two officers attached to the Kara Police Outpost allegedly carried out an unauthorised stop-and-search operation in the area.

In a statement on Wednesday, the command's spokesperson, Ayanlade Olayinka, said the 35-year-old motorcyclist suddenly developed what appeared to be an epileptic seizure and became unresponsive.

He said, “Preliminary reports reveal that two police officers attached to the Kara Police Outpost, operating under the supervision of the District Officer, were allegedly carrying out an unauthorised stop-and-search operation when they intercepted Sanni Salisu, a 35-year-old okada rider. During the interaction, the motorcyclist suddenly developed what appeared to be an epileptic seizure, slumped on his motorcycle, and became unresponsive.

“In a swift effort to preserve life, the officers immediately conveyed him to Modupe Hospital, Akinyele, where he was confirmed dead by medical personnel.

The sudden nature of the incident, unfortunately, triggered tension within the area.”

Olayinka added that the development led to a violent reaction from some residents.

“Some aggrieved individuals, acting on misinformation and unverified narratives, mobilised and attacked the Kara Police Outpost, setting parts of the facility ablaze.

“During the unrest, property, including three motorcycles and a Mazda pick-up patrol vehicle, was destroyed, while one police officer sustained severe burns,” he said.

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He noted that upon receiving a distress report, the command deployed reinforcements to restore order.

“Following this, necessary procedures were carried out, including the evacuation of the deceased to the Adeoyo State Hospital Mortuary, Ring Road, Ibadan, where the body has been deposited for autopsy to determine the exact cause of death,” he added.

The police spokesperson further disclosed that the Commissioner of Police, Abimbola Olugbenga, had ordered the immediate arrest of the officers involved, who are currently in custody.

“The Commissioner of Police has also directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police, State Criminal Investigation Department, to conduct a thorough investigation, ensure the autopsy is carried out, and ensure anyone found culpable is sanctioned in accordance with the law,” he said.

The police boss cautioned against the spread of misinformation, urging the public to rely only on official sources for updates.

“The command maintains zero tolerance for indiscipline and misconduct, and any officer found culpable will face the full weight of the law,” the statement read.

Olugbenga also appealed to residents to remain calm and law-abiding, assuring them that justice would be served.

“The command urges residents to refrain from taking the law into their own hands and to cooperate with the police as investigations continue,” the statement added.

The command reiterated its commitment to protecting lives and property and maintaining public trust.