

Delta police recover bodies of 2 victims killed and dumped in soakaway pit

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From Joe Obukata Ogbodu, *Warri*

Two siblings, one a herbalist plying their trade in Owa-Alidima in Ika North East Local Government Area of Delta State, have met their Waterloo as operatives of the Delta State Police Command recovered the bodies of two victims they allegedly killed and dumped in a soakaway pit by their shrine.

The suspects, identified as Amechi Okwuokenye, aged 20 years, and his elder brother, Smart Okwuokenye, aged 26 years, were said to have kidnapped one Liberty Friday and a motorcycle rider, Isioma Ugbeje, for ransom but later killed the duo when the plan to obtain a N10 million ransom from their families failed.

The said Friday is alleged to have been patronising the herbalist, believed to be his friend, for charms until the ill-fated day when the herbalist connived with his brother and lured him to their shrine for a possible kidnap for ransom case but dastardly killed him alongside the Okada rider that brought him.





Delta State Police Public Relations Officer SP Bright Edefe, giving graphic details of the incident in a statement on Sunday, narrated: “It was a case of the hunter becoming the hunted, when on the 30th of September 2025, Mr Friday Liberty, aged 22 years old, visited his herbalist, whom he had known for some time now, but this time, he never returned.

“The family, who initially didn’t know what happened to their brother, started looking for him. The girlfriend of the deceased then informed the family that she heard a conversation about the said Friday Liberty and a certain herbalist, and advised that they should reach out to the said herbalist.

“The family contacted the herbalist, who denied seeing him but promised to do some spiritual incantations so their brother could return alive.

“Having spent money on the herbalist, and the result was not forthcoming, they then reported the matter at the Agbor Area Command via a petition on 14th October 2025. And this decision proved to be the turning point in the case as the area command detectives embarked on an intelligence-led investigation.

“During the course of the investigation, the detectives uncovered the last person whom Friday Liberty contacted, and found out it was the same herbalist who denied knowing his whereabouts.

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“Surveillance was laid around his shrine at Owa-Alidima in Ika North East LGA for days, until he was arrested on 23rd October 2025, in his shrine while hiding inside a refrigerator.

“Upon arrest of the herbalist Amechi Okwuokenye, aged 20 years, he confessed that both he and his brother Smart Okwuokenye, aged 26 years, kidnapped the victim Liberty Friday and the motorcycle rider identified as Isioma Ugbeje, who carried him to the shrine.

“They further stated that Friday Liberty has been his long-time customer who frequently visits him to hypnotise clients so they could give him money easily (in his words, ‘to tie clients’).

“The herbalist said his elder brother approached him that he needed money and advised him to lure any of his clients so they could kidnap him and ask for ransom, and the unlucky person they could lure was Liberty Friday.

“They kidnapped him and the Okada rider and demanded a ransom of Ten Million Naira (N10,000,000). When they noticed that the plan was not working, they murdered him and the motorcycle rider and dumped their bodies in a soakaway pit by the shrine.

“Suspects are in custody, and the remains of the victims have been evacuated and deposited at the mortuary for autopsy.

“The Commissioner of Police, Delta State, CP Olufemi Abaniwonda, assures the public that the command will ensure that justice is served in this case.”