

Police clear kidnappers' den in Owerri-West, recover decomposing body

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From **Stanley Uzoaru**, Owerri

The Imo State Police Command has dislodged some hideouts of kidnappers at Ndegwu and Okuku forests both in Owerri-West Local Government Area of Imo State.

During the operation conducted on November 5, according to a statement by the police spokesman, Henry Okoye, a decomposing body suspected to be that of Jeffery Ucheagwu, a lawyer from Ihembosi, who was abducted on 14th October, 2025, at Site and Services, Umuguma, Owerri-West LGA.

Okoye said a DNA test would be conducted on the body to ascertain its identity.

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Okoye's statement reads in part: "The intelligence-driven operation, coordinated by ACP Oladimeji Odeyeyiwa, led to the recovery of a decomposed corpse from one of the hideouts located in an abandoned livestock farm deep within the Okuku-Agwa

forest.

“The scene was cordoned off, and the body was carefully evacuated by operatives and taken to the morgue for further forensic examination

“Samples have been obtained by the command’s Forensic Unit and will be sent for DNA analysis to determine whether they correspond with that of Barrister Jeffery Ucheagwu ‘m’ of Ihembosi, who was abducted on 14th October, 2025, at Site and Services, Umuguma, Owerri-West LGA.

Meanwhile, Okoye added that the dislodged hideouts had been placed under 24-hour close surveillance to prevent the criminals from regrouping and to aid further intelligence gathering on their activities while the command intensifies efforts to apprehend members of the gang responsible for the abduction of the said lawyer.

