

Police arrest notorious cult leader linked to Delta murder case

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From Joe Obukata Ogbodu, *Warri*

The operatives of the CP-Special Assignment Team (CP-SAT) of the Delta State Police Command have recorded significant operational successes with the arrest of suspected cult leaders linked to a murder case in Ughelli and the recovery of firearms during a separate operation in Asaba.

The suspect was arrested following ongoing investigations into a case of conspiracy, cultism and murder connected to a cult-related killing that occurred on 15 January 2026 at the Iwhrekpokpo area of Ughelli Town.

Delta State Police Public Relations Officer SP Bright Edafe disclosed this in a statement on Tuesday.

He said that operatives of the CP-Special Assignment Team (CP-SAT) led by ASP Julius Robinson, acting on credible intelligence, had on March 6 stormed a hotel in the Ekuigbo area of Ughelli Town, where the principal suspects were reported to be hiding.

He said that the operation led to the arrest of 30-year-old Joshua Okpogona of Okwarabe community, identified as the current Ughelli leader of the Supreme Vikings Confraternity and the alleged mastermind behind the killing.

Also arrested was 37-year-old Raphael Omokerhe, popularly known as “Black Python”, identified as the immediate past leader of the same cult group.

Police said that investigation is ongoing and efforts are being intensified to apprehend other fleeing suspects connected to the crime.

In a related development, operatives of CP-SAT led by ASP Julius Robinson, on 8 March 2026, also stormed a criminal hideout at Umunaji area by “Stop Abortion” Junction, Asaba, leading to the arrest of 22-year-old Chukwudi Ekenna.

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

“The suspect is currently in custody and has provided useful information that is aiding ongoing efforts to apprehend other members of the criminal network,” he added.

In his remarks, the Commissioner of Police, Delta State Command, CP Aina Adesola, reassured residents of the command’s unwavering determination to sustain the ongoing crackdown on cultism, violent crimes and other criminal activities across the state.

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