

Edo Security Squad Arrests 14 Suspects Over Auchi Cult-Related Killing



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[The Edo State Security Squad](#), known as “Operation Flush Out Kidnappers and Cultists,” has arrested 14 suspects in connection with a recent cult-related killing in Auchi, Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State..

Tension had heightened at Abiodun Motor Park, Jattu Junction, after suspected cultists shot and killed a middle-aged man, forcing residents, commuters, and business owners to flee the area.

Following the incident, the Chief Security Officer (CSO) and Principal Security Officer (PSO) to Governor Monday Okpebholo, alongside other security agencies, launched a raid on suspected criminal hideouts across the Edo North Senatorial District.

During the operation at Jattu Junction, the team demolished Abiodun Motors Park and the Nigeria Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) park located at the junction.

The security squad also raided Triple J & J Hotel in Aviele, where 14 suspects were arrested following intelligence reports that the killing was allegedly planned at the hotel before the suspects moved to Jattu Motor Park to carry out the attack. The hotel has since been sealed, while the squad proceeded to Igbira Camp, Warrake Road, Akpekpe, and other areas in search of criminal elements.

The team also visited the residence of one Anefi Kassim, identified as a prime suspect, but he was not found. According to investigations, Kassim is allegedly a member of the Juris Confraternity and the Edo State Security Corps (ESSC), while another suspect, Idris Mustapha, who is also at large, is said to be a member of the ESSC.

The squad has directed the Auchi Sector Commander of the ESSC, under whose command the suspects operate, to produce both Kassim and Mustapha within 24 hours to face investigation. Failure to comply will result in the suspects being declared wanted.

Speaking on the operation, spokesperson of the squad, Eribo Ewanta, said Governor Monday Okpebholo gave the team a marching order to restore peace and apprehend those behind the killing.

"We are here today and have arrested some suspects connected to the killing, and they are helping security agencies with useful information that will aid further arrests of others at large, including the mastermind of the killing.

"Governor Monday Okpebholo's administration will not allow any form of criminality in Edo State, as criminals will no longer be safe operating in the state.

"The parks at Jattu Junction where the young man was killed have been demolished because they were operating and collecting revenue, which has been banned by the Okpebholo-led administration.

"The governor has banned unauthorized revenue collection across the state, but in this park in Jattu, they were still engaged in illegal revenue collection. The property will be utilized for the benefit of Edo people as the governor will bring development here," he said.