

# Osun police arrest *Okada* rider, three others for kidnapping, killing of traditional chief

From Timothy Agbor, Osogbo

**O**PERATIVES of Osun Police Command have arrested a commercial motorcyclist and three others for the abduction and killing of a traditional chief in Ora-Igbomina.

The decomposing body of the traditional chief, an aged landlord, Oladepo Asaolu, was found about four days after his disappearance. The discovery of his decomposing body caused apprehension among the residents.

It was gathered that Asaolu, an indigene of Ora-Igbomina, was the Babaloja of the ancient town and was said to have been declared missing on October 5, 2022 after a motorcyclist came to his house around 5:00a.m. and took him to an unknown place.

The Command's spokesperson, Yemisi Opolola, who confirmed this in a statement, yesterday, in Osogbo, said the suspects were arrested after Asaolu's son reported the case of a missing person to the police.

"On Saturday, at about 12:30 p.m., one Oladepo Olasunkanmi of Kereja Area, Ora-Igbomina, under Oke Ila Police Division, reported that his father, Chief Oladepo Asaolu, was missing."

"He said his father left his house at Kereja at about 5:00

a.m. on Wednesday with an unknown commercial motorcyclist, and he had not returned after four days," she said.

Opalola said police intelligence and investigation later led to the arrest of the commercial motorcyclist who conveyed the missing chief on the day he was last seen.

She said the arrested motorcyclist confessed that the chief had been killed and also took the police to the forest where the victim's body was dumped.

"The Divisional Police Officer of Oke Ila led a team of policemen and some vigilantes in search for the remains of the victim.

"The suspect led the police to the forest where the victim's body was dumped and his already decomposing body was found. The arrest of the commercial motorcyclist also led to the arrest of three other people who confessed to having been involved in the kidnap and killing of the victim.

"Arrangements were in progress to move the body to the nearest morgue, while the suspects and the case have all been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (SCIID) in Osogbo for further investigation," Opalola added.

Also, confirming the inci-

dent, the Acting Public Relations Officer of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in the state, Kehinde Adeleke, said the commercial motorcyclist, Sunday Johnson, was a tenant to the deceased.

According to Adeleke, the victim's tenant had sold Asaolu to a group of kidnappers who later killed him. Asaolu was said to have been sold to some kidnappers at the rate of N1million by his tenant.

She said the tenant, an indigene of a neighbouring community known as Osan, had rented a shop in the front of Asaolu's house and that he took the advantage of his closeness to the Babaloja and led him into the hands of abductors.

"It is true that the man's decomposing corpse was found in the bush on Sunday. I gathered that his tenant, an indigene of Osan community, close to Ora-Igbomina, sold him to kidnappers for N1 million.

"The suspect was able to achieve this heinous crime because the man (Asaolu) took him like a son and he rented the shop to him. The kidnappers might have killed the man to harvest his body parts," she added.