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Benue Police arrest nine suspected cultists, three others for arson

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By **Tor Vande-Acka** / Makurdi



The Benue State Command of the Nigeria Police said it has arrested nine cultists in connection with the hacking to death of one Terzurum Thaddeus Uma, a 200 level

dropout of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi (UAM)

It said it has also arrested another three persons for causing mischief by fire in Ushongo council of the state.

Uma was allegedly hacked down with machetes by the suspected cultists at a drinking joint in Kanshio, a suburb of Makurdi.

Though there were indications that the deceased was a member of the group, police sources said it was yet to be ascertained if he actually belonged to the group.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Daniel Ezeala, who confirmed the incident, stated that investigation into the incident was ongoing.

The police spokesman also said that the police command arrested three persons on Wednesday for setting ablaze three huts belonging to one Ikyobo Tor Ibi of Mbaiviende village in Ushongo council.

The arrested persons were Chia Akpehe, Lazarus Iyoive and Ashewe Ikyoive.

Ezeala said the suspects had in the process destroyed property worth hundreds of thousands of naira.

Meanwhile, the police have arrested another 12 persons and impounded about 17 motorcycles for breaching the law forbidding commercial cyclists from operating beyond 8p.m. in Makurdi.