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Police Arrest Five Over Kidnap, Murder Of AAU Professor

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By Francis Onoiribholo,

Benin

The Edo State Police Command has arrested five suspects over the alleged kidnapped and murdered an Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension at the Ambrose Alli University (AAU), Ekpoma, Dr. Paul A. Eri.

The five suspects, according to the Police, were among the eight man gang that abducted Dr. Eri from his Igbanke village in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of the state on June 16, 2015 and took him to an unknown location.

The suspects include Mr Awulu Samson (alias Sasek), Lucky Owuadegbe, Jeremiah Amayo, Chucks Edozor and Stephen Usiagwu.

Edo State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Stephen Onwochei said in a statement in Benin City, the state capital that one of the suspects on had on interrogation confessed that the gang members carried out the kidnap of Dr Eri and his subsequent murder.

The gang had after killing the associate professor took his remains to a bush where they buried him in a shallow grave.

The suspect had volunteered and led the team of police pathologist, forensic experts, detectives, deceased family members and the press to the bush at Igbanke village on October 1st at about 11:30am where he identified a shallow grave from where the body of the victim was exhumed.

The police command stated that items recovered from the grave suggested that the remains are indeed that of Dr. Eri who was also identified by family members.

The statement added that three of the eight suspected kidnappers were still on the run even as the state police command assured that no stone would be left unturned until the suspects are arrested and brought to book.

Meanwhile, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Chris Ezike, also on Friday expressed his heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased lecturer and authorities of AAU, Ekpoma over the unfortunate incident.

Ezike assured that the command would continue to make strategic interventions that would enhance safety and security in Edo state.

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