

Doctor killed operative after arrest of 37 suspects, says EFCC



The **Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)** yesterday said it had arrested 37 internet fraud suspects before its officer was killed in Anambra State.

It warned Nigerians against believing false narratives on the Awka incident in which an officer, Aminu Sahabi Salisu, was shot dead by a medical doctor, Joshua Chukwubueze Ikechukwu.

The EFCC made the clarifications in a statement by its Head of Media and Publicity, Dele Oyewale, on how it lost an operative.

It said: “The EFCC expresses grief on the loss of one of its officers, Assistant Superintendent of the EFCC (ASE11) Aminu Sahabi Salisu, who was killed in cold blood while on a legitimate duty on January 17, 2025 by a suspected internet fraudster, Joshua Chukwubueze Ikechukwu.

“Salisu, alongside other investigators of the EFCC, were at Dr. J.O. Ukwutinife Close, Ifite, Awka, Anambra State, to arrest some suspected internet fraudsters in the early hours of January 17.

“The operation was duly documented at the Anambra State Command Headquarters and Area Command of the Nigeria Police in line with operational protocols.

“The operation was initially smooth sailing with 37 suspected internet fraudsters already arrested at a two-storey building housing Ikechukwu and other occupants of the house.

“However, Ikechukwu, who sighted the investigators through a CCTV Camera mounted at his doorpost and who also confessed sighting them, declined to open his door for the investigators who politely demanded entrance to his apartment. “Defying all the introduction and physical sighting of the investigators, he resorted to firing shots at them and killed Salisu in the process and wounded another officer detailed to conduct a search in his apartment.”

The EFCC also revealed that its preliminary investigations confirmed that Ikechukwu was a suspected internet fraudster.

It said although Ikechukwu was already in the custody of the police but he will be prosecuted by the commission.

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The statement reads: "The preliminary investigations showed that Ikechukwu was involved in coding and online medical supplies of doubtful legitimacy. Two laptops, ipads, several recording devices were recovered from his apartment and his involvement in internet fraud is already established.

"Though currently in police custody owing to the murderous dimension of his case, the commission will surely bring him to trial.

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"The EFCC also wishes to alert the public that the activities of internet fraudsters are becoming patently hazardous to public safety and security.

"Intelligence has shown that these criminals are carrying arms, involved in kidnapping, banditry, ritual killings and other deadly acts. The public should not fold its arms or allow itself to be deceived that they are mere "Yahoo boys and girls."

Warning Nigerians against believing false narratives on the tragic incident, the agency said: "Additionally, the commission views with great concern the irresponsible, callous, inhuman and outrageous narratives being circulated on social media on the whys and wherefores of the fatal accident.

“It is heinous to reduce the death of a gallant officer who was carrying out patriotic and official duties to social media razzmatazz.

“More worrisome is the fact that some faceless commentators are pitching their tents with an alleged criminal who unleashed terror on officers of the EFCC in their line of duty.

“There is no justification whatsoever to rationalise a murderous act.

“The milk of human kindness demands that a grieving family, commission and nation should be spared the shenanigans of false narratives and conjectures on the death of the slain officer.”

The EFCC, which vowed to resist further attacks on its operatives, said: “As for the EFCC, every subsequent attack on any of its officers will be met with the force of the law.