

Cult killings: Police arrest 46 suspected cultists in Ondo



The Ondo State Police Command on Thursday said it had apprehended no fewer than 46 youths over an alleged cult related clash in Ondo town.

In a statement issued by the police public relations officer in the state, Olayinka Ayanlade, said that the arrest came after the killing of an alleged drug baron in the town, Bode Akinsiku, whose gruesome murder had now been linked to cult war.

Ayanlade explained that intelligence gathering indicated that the late Akinsiku had been using proceeds from his illicit drug trade to finance cult activities, sponsor initiations, and supply arms to cult groups, thereby fueling violence in Ondo town.

According to him, the suspects were arrested during a raid of some areas in the town.

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Ayanlade said nine of the suspects had already been profiled and dragged to the Akure Division of the Magistrate Court in the state,

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He noted that they were arraigned on a six counts charge bordering on conspiracy, cultism, murder, illegal possession of firearms, and breach of public peace.

“In response to the evolving threat, the Command has deployed the Anti-Cultism Squad and the Tactical Intelligence Response Squad (TIRS) to support the Area Command and the Divisional Headquarters in intensifying the crackdown on cultism and associated violent crimes across the city and arrest those responsible for his death

“The Commissioner of Police commends residents for their continued support and vigilance and assures the public that all remaining suspects still under investigation will be dealt with in accordance with the law.” Ayanlade added.

He said the police command remained committed to restoring public confidence and safeguarding lives and property in the state, urging the public to report suspicious movements or criminal activity to the security agencies.