

Ritual killing: Ife residents protest alleged killing suspect by Osun police

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THE peace of the ancient city of Ile-Ife was on Saturday threatened when angry youths of the town staged a violent protest against the state police command over the killing of a middle-aged man, Olufemi Oriyomi, who was arrested by the police with two others for alleged ritual killings.

The state police command had earlier claimed that, one of the suspects, Olufemi Oriyomi fell ill and was taken to hospital for treatment, but unfortunately, he died while on admission and the corpse has been deposited at the State Hospital for autopsy but the protesters accused the police as not being truthful with the claim that the suspect died during interrogation.

The protesters, who

trooped to the streets of Moore, Mayfair, Sabo area of the town and Ooni of Ife palace around 9.000 am, alleged that the deceased was tortured to death by the police.

The demonstrators, who barricaded major roads, marched round the town to express their grievances on the police claim which they described as a ruse and far from the truth.

They, however, stormed the residence of the police officer, who was said to have carried out the arrest of the three alleged ritual killers and destroyed his property.

The fierce looking protesters vowed not to relent in their protest until justice prevails on the matter.

One of the protesters who identified himself as Adela-bu Omileye condemned the alleged police act, which he

described as inhuman, callous and wicked.

He called on the Inspector General of police to intervene on alleged incessant injustice in the state saying, the deceased is still a suspect and not a Criminal until proven guilty by the court of law.

Meanwhile, the State Police Command in a statement said, "discreet investigation still ongoing, one of the suspects named Olufemi Oriyomi fell sick and was taken to hospital for treatment, but unfortunately, he died while on admission and the corpse has been deposited at State hospital for autopsy."

In the statement signed by its Public Relations Officer Mrs Yemisi Opalola, the command hinted that, the remaining two suspects will

be charged to court upon conclusion of investigation.

The police spokesperson, however, quoted the state Commissioner of Police, CP Olawale Olokode, to have advised parents to monitor their children, and warn them against bad company they might be moving with.

He also admonished the youths to always engage in lawful business, and shun anything that will jeopardize their brighter future, which includes all forms of 'get rich quick' syndrome, it added.

The statement stressed that, police arrested three young men for ritual killings and listed their names as Olayade Kehinde 'M' 25yrs, Olufemi Oriyomi 'M' 21yrs and Raimi Sheriff 'M' 21yrs.

It added that, "on the 7th April, 2022 at about 1100hrs along Osogbo/OAU Ife Cam-

pus Road, the Police detectives on 'stop and search' duty accosted three men on motorcycle, they were flagged down, but rather than stop, sped off, and were pursued. They were eventually arrested at Safejo area of Ile-ife, and while searching, human heart, which they claimed was one of their friend's and various criminal charms were found on them."

However, the state commissioner for Information and Civic Orientation, Mrs. Funke Egbemode in a statement stated that, "violence sparked off by the face-off between the men of Nigerian Police Force and the youths of Iloro area of Ile-Ife, has come to the notice of the government of Osun State, and it is using this opportunity to appeal to the youths and residents of the town to give peace a chance."

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