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Police arrest 16 suspected ritualists with 10 human skulls, 11 others in Oyo

By Soji Ajibola

THE police in Oyo State have confirmed the arrest of 16 suspected ritualists with nine fresh, dry human skulls and other vital body organs at Orita Aperin area in Ona-Ara Local Government Area.

Also, 11 other suspects, including kidnapers, armed robbers and cultists, were also nabbed.

Parading the suspects before newsmen in Ibadan on Thursday, the Commissioner

of Police in the state, Adebowale Williams, through the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Adebale Osifeso, disclosed that the suspects were arrested at different locations in the state.

He said the suspected ritualists specialised in selling of human skulls and other vital body organs to prospective buyers within and outside the state.

The suspects, according to the police, were picked up from their hideout following a tip-off at Orita Aperin area

in Ibadan metropolis.

The report by the police reads: "On February 22, a discreet intelligence gathering carried out by a team of policemen attached to the command's Monitoring Unit, uncovered the criminal activities of some hoodlums who specialised in selling human skulls and other vital organs for ritual purposes in Ibadan.

"With this information, operatives of Monitoring Unit cracked down on the suspected ritualists in their hideout at Orita Aperin area

in Ibadan, and in the process, 11 members of the gang were arrested.

"Nine dry human skulls, one fresh human skull, some quantities of fresh human intestines and other vital human organs were recovered from the suspects.

"Upon interrogations, the suspects confessed to the crime and explained that the dry human skulls were harvested from corpses at burial grounds, while the fresh human head and fresh body organs were harvested from persons after being

killed by their kingpin, who is now at large.

"Investigation is now in progress to arrest the fleeing suspect. Further developments will be communicated later."

In a related development, the state police command has arrested a kidnap kingpin after a botched attempt to abduct two Chinese national en route their mining Site along Olaiya village road, Iganna.

It was gathered that the Anti-Kidnapping Squad pursued and engaged the gang

in a gun duel, which resulted in the killing of the ring leader, identified as 'Yellow', who was adorned in camouflage fits at the time of his death.

Two other suspects were also apprehended.

Also, police operatives are said to be on the trail of killers of a female adult when suspected armed robbers invaded Oluwole area in Iseyin, Oyo State.

While a manhunt is on for the killers, the police have confirmed the recovery of an AK-49 rifle.