

Police nab pastor, four others over murder of seven-year-old boy, vigilante leader in Edo

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EDO State police command has arrested a 45-year-old pastor, Ijebor (surname withheld), and one Destiny (23), over the murder of a seven-year-old boy, Evans Okojabhole, in Irrua, Esan Central LGA.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Moses Yamu, stated this in a statement made available to newsmen on Wednesday in Benin.

Yamu said the case of the alleged murder of the minor was reported to the Irrua divisional headquarters by one John Okhojibole of Jehovah Witness Road, off Elebesunu Street, in Irrua.

He said the incident was reported on February 22, at about 1:45p.m.

The PPRO said that the complainant, John Okhojibole, reported that the remains of his seven-year-old son were sighted with his stomach ripped open, feet cut-off and dumped in the bush close to their house, 24 hours after he was discovered missing.

The police spokesman said during preliminary investigations, the two suspects were arrested by the operatives of Irrua divisional headquarters.

He said the case had been transferred to the State Criminal Investigations Department (SCID) Benin-City for further investigation.

Similarly, operatives of the state police command have arrested three suspects for the alleged murder of Victor Ogedengbe (50), the vigilante commander in Erah commu-

nity in Owan East Local Government Area in the state.

Yamu, in the statement, said: "On February 25, at about 7.30a.m, the chairman of Owan East LGA reported at Afuze division that one vigilante commander, Victor Ogedengbe (50), was killed in his farm by suspected herdsmen and his body was later deposited at the hospital.

"Immediate investigation launched by operatives of Afuze division led to the arrest of three suspects, while the case was equally transferred to the State Criminal Investigations Department (SCID) for further investigations."

It was gathered that the deceased, who was the coordinator/chairman of vigilante in Erah, was killed on Monday, while returning from his farm.

It was learnt that he was on a bike when he was ambushed by suspected hoodlums who had laid siege for him.

A source, who spoke on condition of anonymity said: "This is the third murder in a row from last year till date.

"The first was Edekin Ig-haro, who was killed with cutlass in February last year. He was the head of the vigilante.

"Victor was next in command. When the former commander was killed, Victor took over and continued the fight to restore peace and security in Erah land.

"One other person was killed in May last year by the same suspected herders. Victor was also a successful farmer."