

Command arrests three suspected policeman's killers in Rivers

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Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Mr Joseph Mukan

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The Rivers State Police Command has arrested three suspected killers of Moses Egbede, the Divisional Crime Officer of Afam Police Division in the Oyigbo Local Government of the state.

The suspects, identified as Philemon Barrifa, 23; Okechukwu Emmanuel, 32; and Barrisitom Gbara, 33; were caught in a joint operation of the Force Intelligence Bureau and Intelligence Response Team of the Nigeria Police Force.

According to a statement signed by a spokesman for the Rivers State Police Command, Nnamdi Omoni, on Sunday, the late Egbede was beaten to death by the suspects who dumped his corpse in a well in Paya/Agbeta community, in the Eleme LGA.

Our correspondent gathered that the slain cop was abducted on July 21, 2020, and a ransom to secure his release was paid to his abductors on July 30, 2020.

But the abductors, after receiving the ransom, refused to let him go, a development that prompted his family to approach the Force Intelligence Bureau and the Intelligence Response Team for assistance.

Omoni added that police operatives on August 5, 2020 commenced investigations and with supports from the Technical Intelligence Unit, Abuja, identified the perpetrators.

Three of the gang members were subsequently arrested.

“One of the suspects, Barrifa, confessed that SP Egbede was beaten to death after the collection of ransom because he struggled with his abductors and pulled down the face masks of two of the gang members. He said he (Barrifa) got N120,000 from the ransom.

“Emmanuel, aka *Bike boy*, also confessed to monitoring the movement of security agents during the gang’s operations and receiving N100,000 as his share, while Gbara confessed to providing the live cartridges used for the kidnapping of the police officer to the gang members through Barrifa.

“The suspects are cooperating with the police in tracking down other members of the gang now at large, especially the gang leader, who allegedly brought the two AK-47 rifles used for the abduction,” Omoni said.