

roughness of her followers
last Thursday.

person you become," she
added.

Four policemen, couple detained over killing of Edo vigilante

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•Edo CP, Yaro
Adeyinka Adedipe, Benin

THE Edo State Police Command has arrested and detained four policemen for allegedly killing a vigilante, Ikponwonsa Aikpitanyi, in the Obazee area of Benin, the state capital.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Bello Kontongs, in a statement, identified the culprits as Insp. Igere Victor, Sgt. Umhenin Stanley, Sgt. Okongor Ojong and Cpl. Monday Joel.

He noted that the cops were arrested on the orders of the Commissioner of Police, Abutu Yaro.

The police also arrested a couple for their involvement in the alleged murder.

The statement read, "The Commissioner of Police, Edo State, Abutu Yaro, has ordered the arrest and detention of four police personnel for allegedly shooting to death a vigilante, Ikponwonsa Aikpitanyi, on April 22, 2022 around 8.30pm during a rescue operation. Also arrested were Mr & Mrs Sunday Egboh for conspiracy and murder.

"The officers, who are attached to the New Benin Division of the command, were in the Obazee area after receiving a distress call from one Sunday Egboh (42) that some boys suspected to be cultists were attempting to rape his wife, Mrs Rose Sunday (40).

"On receipt of the information, a patrol team, led by Insp. Igere Victor, was immediately drafted to the area. In the midst of commotion on their arrival, a member of the patrol team allegedly fired a shot which hit the deceased in his chest.

"The CP received the news with great bewilderment and

described the action of the team as unacceptable and unprofessional. He laid emphasis that the command under his watch would not condone acts of misconduct that are inimical to the peace and safety of law abiding citizens of Edo State.

"Against this backdrop, the CP directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of the State Criminal Investigation Department to carry out discreet investigation in order to unravel the circumstances surrounding the incident."

Kontongs also said the command, in collaboration with members of the Edo State Security Network, on April 24 around 08:24am, while on a routine patrol along Ologbosere Street, Okhoro area of Benin, arrested one Kingsley Philip with one locally-made cut-to-size gun and one live cartridge.

According to the PPRO, investigation revealed that the suspect is a member of a secret cult, Junior Vikings Confraternity.

He said the suspect would be charged to court as soon as investigation was concluded.

In another development, the police spokesman said operatives of the command along the Benin-Auchi Road arrested one Abdulrazaq Iliasu (20) in a commercial bus with a pump-action gun and three live cartridges.

The suspect reportedly claimed that the weapon belonged to his elder brother, who was a vigilante, adding that he did not know his residence in Benin.

Kontongs said the suspect would be charged to court.