

# Amotekun nabs kidnapper, suspect admits killing three victims

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By Peter Dada

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No fewer than 45 persons have been arrested by men of the Ondo State Security Network Agency, also known as Amotekun, over criminal activities in the state, including armed robbery and kidnapping.

Parading the suspects at the corps headquarters, Akure, the state capital, on Wednesday, the state Commander, Akogun Adetunji Adeleye, said the suspects were arrested within two weeks.

Adeleye explained that the corps had a case of one Okoye Chukwuma, who specialised in burgling cocoa stores and one Philip Jacob, who specialised in vandalising vehicles parked in mechanical workshops overnight.

He said, “At Ore, in the Odigbo Local Government Area, we have some suspects who kidnapped a family and we immediately swung into action and arrested the kidnappers and released the victims. We also have those that are regular in house breaking at midnight; they have ways of opening doors and silently entering to molest innocent people and dispose them of their valuables.

“We also have some people that specialise in using vehicles to steal goats across the state and some of the goats have been recovered from them. We have a gang of fraudsters that uses spiritual means to defraud some people in the society. We have a case of some kidnappers, they usually fake that you have hit their bikes, and when you come out to sympathise with them, they will just enter the vehicle and drive the victim (s) away. We have eight suspected kidnappers from the Central and Southern Senatorial Districts of Ondo State.”

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A kidnap suspect, Usman Muhammadu, confessed to killing three victims who were abducted by his gang. He, however, refused to say why the victims were killed.

The 25-year-old also said he had collected a ransom of over N500,000 from relations of victims abducted by his gang.

He said, “We have an informant who we pay to give us information. After we have the information, we swing into action, kidnap victims, march them into the forest and demand ransom from their family members.”

Another suspect, Yaro Yaya, confessed to be the informant of the kidnappers.

He said, “I don’t know what they do with the victims or how much they collect as ransom. They just settle me out of the ransom collected. I don’t ask questions.”