

Man arrested for Ondo boy's killing over cocoa theft

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A file copy of Police officers

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The Ondo State Police Command has confirmed the arrest of a suspect for allegedly beating a boy to death in Ondo State.

PUNCH Metro learnt on Wednesday that the suspect allegedly committed the crime on suspicion that the deceased was plucking cocoa pods from a farm in Akunmi Quarters, Akungba of the State.

This was revealed in a statement signed by the Public Relations Officer of the command, Ayanlade Olusola, made available to *PUNCH Metro* on Wednesday.

According to Ayanlade, the incident occurred on September 20, at about 2:30pm, when police got a report about “a young boy who had been severely assaulted after being accused of plucking cocoa pods from a farm.”

The deceased was said to have been taken to the station in an “unconscious state,” and officers quickly ordered that he be given urgent medical attention.

The command noted that the victim was confirmed dead at the hospital a few hours later.

While the boy’s body was said to have been deposited at the hospital’s morgue for autopsy, the command revealed that the suspect was immediately taken into police custody.

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“The case has since been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department, Akure, for discreet investigation with a view to ensuring that justice is served.

“The Commissioner of Police strongly condemns this tragic development and once again cautions members of the public against resorting to self-help or jungle justice under any circumstance.

“Citizens are urged to resist the temptation of taking laws into their own hands, but rather report all infractions, disputes, or criminal acts to the Police and allow due process of the law to prevail,” the statement read.

While commiserating with the family of the deceased, the state Commissioner of Police, Adebowale Lawal, assured the state that the case would be handled with “the utmost fairness, professionalism, and adherence to the rule of law.”

“The Ondo State Police Command remains committed to protecting lives and property and calls on residents to continue to partner with the Police in ensuring peace, security, and justice in the State.”

A similar occurrence was reported by PUNCH Metro on Wednesday, when three suspects were arrested over the death of a 10-year-old boy.

The suspects committed the crime in Mariga Local Government Area, where the Niger State Police Command arrested two men over the kidnap and gruesome killing of a 10-year-old boy.