

Police arrest, arraign suspected cultist for murder

From **Tony John**, Port
Harcourt

THE Rivers State Police Command has arrested a 35-year-old suspected notorious Island cult leader, terrorising Eleme Area of the state, Barikui Amanyie (aka Lawyer) in Eleme.

The arrest was in response to a directive given by the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Olatunji Disu, to tactical units and Divisions to intensify efforts to apprehend criminals on the watch list of the Rivers State Police command.

Barikui, who hails from Kaanii in Khana Local Government Area of the State, has been on the watchlist of the Police since December 31, 2021, when he and five other members of his gang allegedly murdered one Mr. Lioneda Lebari. On the fateful day, the deceased was tracked by the gang after withdrawing his annual savings of NGN150,000 from a local thrift collector.

Daily Sun gathered that the suspect tracked the deceased to the Oil-Mill junction, where he was attacked by Barikui and his gang and stabbed him multiple times. He later died of severe wounds while his attackers fled the scene of the crime.

The suspect, before his arrest, had been in hiding, switching hideouts regularly to evade arrest.

However, on Friday, December 20, the Anti-Kidnapping Unit of the Rivers State Police responded to a tip-off and apprehended the suspect in his hideout in Eleme. Among the items recovered from the suspect were locally made pistols and charms. The suspect had confessed to the crime and was charged to the Court on a two-count of murder and cultism.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)

**Kano Hisbah
confiscates truck**