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12 held for Benue cult killings



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Ate least 12 people have so far been arrested in connection with killings resulting from cult clash in Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State.

Police said yesterday that one person had been arrested with weapons while 11 other in connection with the killings were being detained at the State Criminal Investigative Intelligence Department (SCIID) in Makurdi.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Moses Yamu, said the suspect was arrested on Saturday with a revolver gun and three rounds of live ammunition.

He said: “One person was arrested with a revolver gun with three rounds of live amm on October 27 being the day of the killing, while 11 others were subsequently arreste Tuesday.”

Yamu said the suspects would be charged to court after investigation.

It was learnt that the suspects were arrested at different locations in Otukpo followir by some members of the public through the collaborative efforts of the police, the De of State Services (DSS), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and Otukp vigilance group.

Sources in Otukpo said 13 suspects were actually arrested but as they were being trar to Makurdi in a chartered commercial bus, one of them, identified as Ngbede, alleged the side window of the bus, jumped out and escaped into the bush.

They said a manhunt for the fleeing suspect was being carried out by the police.

The Chairman of Otukpo Local Government, George Alli, expressed happiness over tl of the suspects.

He said: “I am happy about this development. No responsible government will fold it and watch people slaughtering one another like animals. There is no option to peace coexistence. We won’t compromise our desire and need for peace. I want to call on al and guardians to closely pay attention to their children.”

At least three people were killed while one person was injured during the clash by riv gangs in Otukpo last Friday.

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