

## Police arrest kidnappers, uncover shallow graves of victims in Ogun



**By James Ogunnaike, Abeokuta**

**Operatives of Ogun State Police command have arrested two kidnappers, who killed their victims, after collecting ransom from their families in Ijebu Igbo, Ijebu North local government area of the State.**

**Spokesperson for the command, Omolola Odutola, who disclosed this in Abeokuta, the State capital, said the arrest of the kidnappers led to the discovery of the shallow graves of 71-year-old farmer, Adekunle Ifelaja, and Ogunyemi Femi, who were allegedly killed by the suspects in Ijebu-Igbo forest.**

She stated that the two suspects; Chukwuma Bartholomew and Igwe Monday, were arrested through technical investigations on June 28, 2024, at about 6:20pm. Odutola stated that the suspects, after confessing to the crime during interrogation, led the State Commissioner of Police, Abiodun Alamutu, and the anti-kidnapping squad to the forest, where the corpses of the victims were exhumed. She said, "They are responsible for kidnappings and abductions that have been recorded in the Ijebu-Igbo area. They kidnapped their victims, demanded ransom from their family members, and then killed them. "They then took them to a forest in Ijebu-Igbo, where they dug a shallow grave and buried them. They were arrested by our anti-kidnapping squad after a thorough investigation, which led the team to the hideouts of the criminals on June 28, 2024, in Ijebu-Igbo. "After their confession, the suspects took the CP and members of the anti-kidnapping units to the forest where they buried the victims to exhume the corpses." The arrest came six months after the last operation in which their victim, 71-year-old Sunday Adekunle Ifelaja, popularly known as Adeife, did not return home after his kidnappers collected ransom. It was gathered that on November 23, 2023, the suspects, part of a 7-man criminal syndicate, stormed the home of 34-year-old Femi on November 23, 2023, abducted him and took him to an unknown location.

They allegedly made a video of Femi and sent it to his family to demand ransom.

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According to the police, the suspects killed the victim despite receiving ransom

from his family.

Similarly, after abducting the elderly 71-year-old farmer at Oke-Sopen in Ijebu-Igbo on December 31, 2023, the suspects reportedly recorded a video of the septuagenarian man and sent it to his family via WhatsApp, demanding a ransom for his release.

According to the police, the farmer was killed and buried in one of the shallow graves despite the payment.

“On June 28, 2024, the Anti-Kidnapping Squad made a massive breakthrough in the hunt for the kidnappers when through technical-based investigation, they discovered the hideout of the criminals in Ijebu-Igbo.