

Police arrest 497 suspects in Delta, Kaduna over cultism, banditry, armed robbery, other crimes

WARRI/KADUNA

A total of 497 suspects have been arrested by the Nigeria Police Force in Delta and Kaduna states for involvement in a range of criminal activities, including cultism, armed robbery, kidnapping, and unlawful possession of firearms.

In Delta State, the Police Command confirmed the arrest of three suspected cult members in Abraka, a university town in Ethiope East Local Government Area.

Spokesperson of the Command, SP Bright Edafe, told journalists on Thursday in Warri that the suspects were apprehended by the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) during a coordinated raid.

“On July 30, 2025, operatives of the Command’s Rapid Response Squad, acting on credible intelligence, stormed a criminal hideout around the Big Gate area of Campus Three in Abraka. Three suspects were arrested at the location,” Edafe stated.

Recovered from the suspects were one fabricated Beretta pistol with four live ammunition, a black cap with an Eiye confraternity inscription, and one battle axe.

The suspects, he said, confessed during preliminary investigation to being members of the Eiye confraternity.

SP Edafe added that the suspects were in custody while further investigations continued.

He quoted the Commissioner of Police, CP Olufemi Abaniwonda, as advising parents and guardians to guide their children and wards against engaging in cultism or criminal acts.

The CP also encouraged residents to assist law enforcement by reporting any suspicious individuals or activities in their communities.

Meanwhile, in Kaduna State, the Police Command said it has recorded significant breakthroughs in its fight against crime, arresting 494 suspects for a variety of offenses in July 2025.

At a press conference held on Thursday in Kaduna, the Commissioner of Police, CP Muhammad Rabi, said that the arrested individuals were involved in heinous crimes including armed robbery, kidnapping, banditry, and illegal firearms possession.

According to him, the police recovered an array of dangerous weapons, including six English-made AK-47 rifles, 12 locally fabricated AK-47 rifles, five pistols, and one pump action gun.

Additional items recovered included eight AK-47 magazines, 20 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 87 rounds of pistol ammunition, and 36 cartridges.

Vehicles and motorcycles recovered from the suspects included three Golf III wagons, one Toyota Prado Jeep, one Toyota Corolla believed to have been used in a cross-border robbery operation, and five motorcycles.

CP Rabi also disclosed that the police arrested a notorious bandit leader who had evaded arrest for 11 years.

The fugitive was apprehended in a village in the Shika District of Giwa Local Government Area. Firearms were also recovered from the bandit’s hideout.

In a separate case, the Command arrested a serial impersonator, identified as Aminu Ado-Yarima, who had allegedly posed as several high-ranking personalities, including state governors and senior security officials.

The CP reiterated the command’s unwavering commitment to safeguarding lives and property in the state and thanked the Kaduna State Government and the Inspector General of Police for their continued support.

He urged members of the public to remain vigilant and to report all suspicious activity to the nearest police station, while also calling on criminals in the state to repent and voluntarily turn over a new leaf.

As part of internal reforms, CP Rabi earlier decorated three newly promoted senior officers in the command, comprising one Deputy Commissioner of Police and two Assistant Commissioners of Police.



BIENNIAL FUNDRAISING CONVENTION:

Seated (3rd from left), front row: Mrs. Abieywuwa Eweka, Provost, College of Nursing Sciences, UBTH; Ms. Philomena Kerobo, President, SONUBTHAI International; and Ms. Mercy Ekpoudom, Founding and Board Member, NANNNA — representing the National Association of Nigerian Nurses in North America (NANNNA) — at the Biennial Fundraising Convention and Gala Night in Atlanta, USA.

Ilorin cleric sentenced to death by hanging for ritual killing of college student

ILORIN

High Court sitting in Ilorin, Kwara State, on Thursday sentenced an Islamic cleric, Abdulrahman Bello, to death by hanging for the murder of a final-year student of the Kwara State College of Education, Ilorin, Hafsat Lawal.

Delivering the judgment, Justice Hannah Ajayi found Bello guilty of the murder, describing the crime as “the highest degree of human wickedness and cruelty.”

The judge ruled that Bello

had lured the 23-year-old student to her death under the pretext of a romantic relationship, but with the hidden intent of using her for money-making rituals.

Justice Ajayi dismissed Bello’s claims that he was in love with the deceased and had intended to marry her, calling his statements a “concocted lie” aimed at deceiving the court.

“The convict’s attitude before and after committing the crime shows that this may not be his first time engaging in such a heinous act,” the judge stated.

The court admitted video and

written evidence obtained by officers of the Department of State Services (DSS) and the police.

The judge ruled that the evidence was obtained in full compliance with the laws of Kwara State and that there was no indication that Bello was tortured or coerced into making his statements.

A book containing secrets of money-making charms was recovered from the convict’s apartment, further implicating him.

Justice Ajayi advised the public, especially young people, to be cautious about inter-

actions on social media.

She noted that the deceased might have been saved had she informed friends or family about her plans to visit a male Facebook friend.

Bello was also charged with rape, an offense punishable under Section 283 of the Penal Code CAP P4, Laws of Kwara State.

The court, however, discharged and acquitted four other defendants, Ahmed Abdulwasii, Suleiman Muhydeen, Jamiu Uthman, and Abdulrahman Jamiu who had initially been linked to the case.

NGF, others declare education crisis...

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both state and non-state actors.”

The NGF stressed the importance of tracking learner progress and reiterated that foundational education must be a priority at the state level.

He added, “This workshop is expected to inspire federal and state decision-makers to adopt and sustain evidence-based reforms that can improve foundational learning and reduce the out-of-school population.”

The NGF pledged support for state efforts through capacity building, policy alignment, and increased public-private education funding.

UBEC Executive Secretary Aisha Garba, represented by Deputy Secretary, Technical, Rasaq Akinyemi, acknowledged systemic barriers but urged the nation to build on its progress and uphold every child’s right to quality education.

She said, “Basic education remains central to national development. We must improve the quality of teaching to ensure that children receive the learning they deserve.”

“Today’s gathering responds to

a national crisis—millions of Nigerian children are out of school, and many parents lack the education and skills to live productive lives. These problems are structural and long-standing.”

Garba noted that with support from the World Bank and other partners, the federal government has launched multi-million-dollar programs to bridge learning gaps and strengthen basic education delivery at the state level.

She added, “Several states have begun implementing community-based programs to tackle foundational learning issues.

Others are introducing innovative solutions in energy, health, and education to support students better.

“We must build on this momentum and ensure no child is left behind.”

Garba described the event as a platform for policy coordination, peer learning, and institutional dialogue.

NewGlobe’s Vice President for Policy and Partnerships, Ifeyinwa Ugochukwu, acknowledged progress in expanding access to education but stressed that learning outcomes remain poor.

Assault: Ogun NMA threatens legal action against nurses over alleged attack, cyberbullying of doctor

ABEOKUTA

The Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), Ogun State Chapter, has said that it may pursue legal action against individuals or groups allegedly involved in the assault and defamation of one of its senior doctors at the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro, Abeokuta.

Speaking at a press conference on Thursday in Abeokuta,

the state NMA Chairman, Dr. Luqman Ogunjimi, condemned what he described as a coordinated attempt to harass and undermine medical professionals in the state, particularly at the hospital.

Ogunjimi alleged that a student nurse, identified as Seyi Ogunjobi, assaulted Dr. Maje-kodunmi, the hospital’s Head of Clinical Services.

He said that following Ogunjobi’s sanction, the doc-

tor became the target of a widespread online smear campaign and cyberbullying, allegedly perpetrated by members of the nursing association.

According to the NMA, on July 18, nurses staged a protest, during which they locked the gates of the hospital, effectively preventing staff, patients, and visitors from entering or exiting for several hours.

“The cyberbullying and on-

line harassment directed at our member are not only defamatory and unethical but appear to be a deliberate attempt to intimidate and damage the reputation of a senior medical officer,” Ogunjimi said.

He described the protest and online attacks as attempts to politicise a legitimate disciplinary process, destabilise hospital leadership, and erode professional standards in the

healthcare system.

The association called on law enforcement and regulatory authorities to thoroughly investigate the events and prosecute those responsible for the disruptions and attacks.

Commenting on the long-standing rivalry between doctors and nurses, Ogunjimi said that professionalism requires each discipline to understand its scope of practice.

“Every profession must operate within its defined roles, being in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing. That’s the only way to maintain order and ensure patient safety,” he added.

The NMA pledged to defend the integrity of its members and warned that it would no longer tolerate any action that threatens their professional dignity or safety.