

## Murdered over 'witchcraft' allegation

Digino, a town in the Fufore Local Government Area of Adamawa State, is well known for its rich Fulani culture and agriculture.

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But on August 26, a streak of family dispute spiralled into violence, leading to the death of a 60-year-old woman identified as Mrs Dudu Umaru.

According to the police, Umaru's younger brother, his son and her nephew banded together and stormed her house, accusing her of casting a spell on a teenage girl named Aisha.

They allegedly descended on her, leaving her with serious injuries, and the sexagenarian later died from the injuries.

"The three men were arrested for the act, and they have confessed that they are guilty of the incident that was reported. They claimed to have only beaten her with sticks without any intention of killing her, and burnt her house.

"The eldest amongst them is the deceased's younger brother. They claimed the woman was a witch who wanted to kill his daughter. That is why they went to her house to beat her up, leading to her death," the spokesperson of the Adamawa State Police Command, SP Suleiman Nguroje, said.

When interrogated, the first suspect, 50-year-old farmer Bello Usman, explained, "Dudu is my uncle's daughter. She held my daughter with witchcraft for a few weeks. I gave her traditional medication, and after she took it, she started calling Dudu's name, saying Dudu wanted to kill her.

"Upon hearing that from my daughter, I became furious. I went to her house with my son and nephew. We beat her up with a stick and left her unconscious on the ground. Later, I heard she was confirmed dead after we were arrested.

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“Since the day I was arrested, I have not heard from my family again, so I don’t know about my daughter’s health. I was afraid of losing her, that was why I took that drastic decision. But I regret my actions now, knowing Dudu is my cousin,” he said.