

# Man kills brother over witchcraft claim in Rivers community

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| By Dennis Naku

A man identified as Nwalozie Chiwendu is now on the run after killing his brother, Chidiebere Isaiah, of the same compound in Ofeh community in Omuma Local Government Area of Rivers State.

It was gathered that the incident occurred at about 4pm on Thursday after the suspect accused his brother of witchcraft and being behind his stagnation in life.

Pictures of the deceased's corpse circulating on social media, seen by our reporter, show the victim with multiple machete cuts all over his body.

It was learnt that when the victim fell to the ground in a pool of his own blood, the suspect immediately realised what he had done and fled before people around could get hold of him.

Narrating the incident to newsmen on Friday, the Youth President of Ofeh community, Mr Chinonso Chima, described the incident as "very unfortunate."

Chima stated, "Yesterday evening, I got a call from some people in my community telling me about the sad incident that happened between two brothers of the same compound.

"The story is that the younger one took cutlass, butchered his elder brother like meat before people who were around came to hold him. He ran away after carrying out the devilish act.

"So when I was called, I told them to quickly rush him to the hospital and I was running down from town to see how we can attend to the matter. On their way to the hospital, the man (Nwalozie) died."

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He further said because it was a murder case, they should not deposit the corpse in the mortuary.

“We have reported to the Police Division within us here, notifying them of what happened and police have taken note of it.

“The boy that committed the crime is on the run. The community is searching for him everywhere to get him to face the full wrath of the law,” he added.

He said the deceased's remains were later deposited in the mortuary with police permission, after which he addressed the community and appealed for calm so that no one takes the law into his or her own hands.

“Let us not cause more panic in the community. We have done all of that and we are still talking with critical stakeholders of the community. For now everywhere is calm,” Chima explained.

When contacted, the spokesperson for the state Police Command, Grace Iringe-Koko, a Chief Superintendent of Police, confirmed the incident, saying investigation is ongoing.

She stated, “Information at my disposal indicates that the suspect used cutlass to machete the victim to death after accusing him (victim) of witchcraft that made him (suspect) not to prosper.

“The victim's corpse has been retrieved and deposited in the mortuary. Investigation is ongoing and I can tell you that a manhunt has already been launched with a view to apprehend the suspect and make him face the law.”