

Jungle Justice: Angry Mobs Lynch Suspected Kidnappers, Ritualists

Tuesday, November 28, 2006 was judgment day for about 4 suspected ritual killers and kidnappers captured at different areas in Warri, the commercial centre of Delta State by irate mobs. The suspected ritualists, most of whom caught in the act of stealing children, were condemned instantly and executed extra-judicially by angry mobs who set them ablaze.

○ In the harvest of jungle justice, a middle-aged man was lynched at the Ajamimogha Road, Warri, at about 11am when he allegedly attempted to steal a toddler. Luck ran out on him, and he was set ablaze.

○ While his remains were still smouldering, another suspected kidnapper was captured by youths at Ekurede Urhobo, few metres away from the scene of the first incident. He was alleged to have attempted to kidnap a 10-year old child but was caught in the act. He was set ablaze immediately.

○ An okada rider was also caught while he attempted to kidnap three school children in Warri. The “okada man” was said to have taken the children from the school in the heart of Warri when they were waiting for their parents after school hour. He told the children that he was sent to carry them by their parents. But luck ran out on the ritualist when the children started shouting while they were being taken away, saying that they did not know him. The cry of the children attracted an irate crowd which succeeded in rescuing the children. As the okada man attempted to run, they captured him and meted out the jungle justice on him.

○ At another place near Ekpan community in Uvwie Local Government Area, it was reported that a youngman in his late 20s was also set ablaze on allegation of ritual activities.

A Divisional Police Officer, Mr Segun Faburumi was able to rescue another ritual suspect, one Mr Godwin Ovurume from being lynched by irate youths at Ekurede Urhobo area of Warri. The irate youths alleged that Ovurume was caught while trying to steal a little child. He was already beaten mercilessly and was bleeding from several parts of his body when the DPO in charge of the B Division Police Station with his team arrived the scene and rescued the man.

The irate youths were said to have descended on the DPO and his team, pelting them with stones and sticks and nearly lynched him for obstructing the execution of the jungle justice preferred on the accused.

The activities of ritual killers and kidnappers are on increase in Delta State and other parts of the country as a result of the forthcoming 2007 elections and Christmas celebration. It is believed that human parts are being used by ritualists and occultists to prepare charms for power and money making.