

Police nab Catholic priest abductors, ritualists

MALACHY UZENDU,
Head Editorial, Abuja

A MIDDLE-AGED man who allegedly killed a lady he demanded sex from, is now in the police net.

Similarly, two other suspects, who abducted a Catholic priest and two others in Abia state demanding ransom are also in police net.

The alleged murderer who gave his name as Alhaji Uba Abdullahi, according to Mr. Mike Okiro, the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), lured the deceased lady, Miss Mary Danladi to a bush near Sahad Stores, Area 11, Abuja, where he stabbed her and severed her head.

The IGP told newsmen that the tragedy occurred on September 5, at about 2.10 a.m. while a police patrol team led by one Sergeant Ahmadu Yuguda, who also recovered the knife used by the suspect in the act and impounded his Honda Accord Station Wagon registration number AG 847 SUL.

He explained that after the murder had been committed, the patrol team, which was passing by suspected that something was amiss in the area where the Honda car was stationed.

"When the patrol team attempted to check what went wrong with the vehicle, parked by the side of the road, the occupant of the car suddenly zoomed off. The policemen on patrol gave him a hot chase and apprehended him.

"On searching the car, they discovered blood splattered all over the car which he claimed to be "zobo" drink but upon further interrogation, he claimed that he picked a prostitute in the night who denied him sex after having paid her N1,500 so he killed her," he said.

The IGP also said contrary to the initial claim by the suspect that the lady was a prostitute, police discovered that the lady was returning from prayer crusade from Jabi, one of the suburbs in Abuja, when the Abdullahi offered to give her a lift home.

The suspect confirmed having killed the lady, but said it was in self-defense as the lady attacked him after refusing to have sex with him even though she was holding his money.

On the Abuja incident, the IGP said one Udochukwu Njoku, who accepted they actually kidnapped the priest and raped the girl, tried to exonerate himself from the act, saying he had advised his gang members against kidnapping

anybody.

"On September 2, one reverend father who was returning from a mass and was driving in his Mercedes Benz in the company of his mass servant and a female cousin, were intercepted by the assailants, kidnapped them and demanded for N7 million ransom.

"While the priest and the mass server were in custody, they serially raped the female cousin," Okiro stated.

Terrorism: No cause for alarm —Okiro

MALACHY UZENDU, Head Editorial,
Abuja MANSUR OLADUNJOYE,
Lagos

GOV. Babatunde Fashola of Lagos state reacting yesterday to the report of alleged terrorism plan by the state trothed to the United States of America (USA), said that he would give anything for the security of lives and property of Lagosians.

Consequently, the state has literally unleashed a continued raid on illegal residents in the state, noting that they are capable of being used by possible perpetrators of terrorism on the state.

Meanwhile, Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Mike Okiro has also declared that there was no cause for alarm.

Addressing state house correspondent in the Exco chamber of the governor's office, Fashola while practically demonstrating his posture for security in the state, ordered the suspension of the on-going EXCO meeting to discuss the issue with the press.

He stated that the last he would do was to treat the issue of security in the state with levity,

"This you can see in the way our administration has reacted to the security trust fund, the setting up of security committee headed by a former Inspector General of Police Musliu Smith, the way we quickly assented to the security bill passed by the House and the much we have spent on security materials and apparatus for the Rapid Response Squad (RRS)."

Fashola stated that the red alert issued by the American government on the state was currently under study by his cabinet, assuring that necessary

The prime suspect, Mr. Njoku, claimed that it was one Nkemakolam, a native of Ezime village in Obioma, Ngwa local government area, and Ogozie Chukwuemeka, both of who are at large, who lured him into the act.

He however said the other suspect, one Chidiadi Esiaba, was a mere "Okada" rider, who took them to the place where they carried out the act.

agencies towards preventing any social vices, urging members of the public to always report any strange movement in their neighbourhood to the security personnel in their area.

At the Exco meeting, we agreed that the state should intensify continued raid on illegal occupants in the state, because we believe that such people could be potential ground for terrorists," he said.

Meanwhile, the state government has released five telephone hotlines to the public to report any possible security threat around them: 01-4931260; 01-4978899; 01-4931261; 01-7745705 and; 100 for Multilinks network subscribers.

American government, through its Information service last week warned its citizens to be wary of terrorist attack in Lagos and Abuja.

However, IGP Okiro has declared that there was no cause for alarm.

Okiro who was addressing journalists at force headquarters, Abuja stated that he had analysed the alert, but maintained that there was nothing to be afraid of as the police had taken adequate precautionary measures to guarantee the security of lives in the embassies, foreign nationals and all Nigerians.

The United States (US) in a report released last Thursday, claimed that terrorists were planning to attack the country on September 11, but government dismissed the matter as false and "unfair stigmatization of the country".

In a statement sent by e-mail to its citizens in Nigeria, the US