

Benue: Cultists axe man to death

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NO fewer than 25 suspected cultists who have been apprehended by the police in Benue State.

Fourteen of them were arrested in Igumale, Ado Local Government Area, where they allegedly axed a young man to death, while the rest were apprehended, following a tip-off, in other parts of the state.

Briefing journalists on the menace of cultists in the state, the State Police Commissioner, Mr. Ibrahim Mohammed, said the deceased was sleeping with his younger brother in their mother's room when cultists used axe to destroy the iron door which was securely locked.

He said the deceased was axed to death in the presence of his younger brother who hid himself among sacks of grains and identified those that struck.

"We know how terrible these people are, so, we have instructed the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) to give him full protection," he said.

While assuring that the 25 persons would soon be charged to court, the police chief said the command was carrying out a discreet investigation into the circumstances that led to the recent killing of a university

• 25 suspects arrested

don, Dr. Gwar Jande.

He said the police would try to avoid a situation where those that killed the former Head of the Department of Law at the Benue State University would try to escape, while innocent

citizens suffer and vowed to track down the culprits.

On the directive that motorcyclists hirers should not operate beyond 8 pm Mohammed said, it was being enforced.

He said police, army and air

force personnel were fond of breaking the rule and warned that no one would be spared no matter his position.

He appealed to the Benue State House of Assembly to enact a law to back up the order and added that most of the crimes were being committed by motorcycle operators.

Transcorp seeks release of detained officials

KALU OKWARA

MANAGEMENT of Transnational Corporation of Nigeria (Transcorp) Plc, has decried the continued detention of its Group Managing director, Tom Iseghohi and two others by the State Security Services (SSS), even as it has directed its lawyers to pursue the enforcement of their fundamental human rights.

The Group Managing Director, Company Secretary, Buba Mohammed, and Head of Shared Services, Mike Okoli were detained by the SSS eight days ago

when they went to honour the invitation extended to them by the SSS.

A statement issued by the General Manager of Transcorp Plc, Nicholas Okoro yesterday said the three persons were invited for questioning over allegations made against them in course of performing their normal duties, lamenting that since these officers honoured the invitation they had been in detention without access to their lawyers or family members.

"Transcorp Plc as a corporate citizen strongly believes in the supremacy of the Rule of Law and therefore advocates its full

application in the handling of this issue.

"We note with great concern that the affected executives have been in detention for seven Days without being informed of their alleged offence, given the prospect of bail or lawfully charged.

"To this end we have instructed our company lawyers, Messrs. George Etomi and Joe Gadzama (SAN) to legally pursue the enforcement of their fundamental human rights with the aim of getting them released immediately or charged to a court of competent jurisdiction," the statement read.