

Corpse of ritual victim found under River Kaduna Bridge

The police yesterday discovered the corpse of a young man who may have been a victim of ritual killers under the bridge by the bank of river Kaduna.

The body of the man, believed to be an okada operator in his 20s, was later removed by police officers from Sabon-gari police station and deposited at the Barau Dikko specialist hospital mortuary.

Daily Trust investigations revealed that his killers, who may have removed his throat for ritual purposes, slaughtered the man under the bridge, as a pool of blood was found where his corpse lied before it was removed by the police. His motorcycle,

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which he was said to have acquired newly, was also nowhere to be found.

Malam Salisu, a witness, who saw the body before the arrival of the police, confirmed that his neck was slit and his throat removed. "I saw the corpse of the man early this morning as I was passing by the bridge. His body was lying in a pool of blood at the bank of the river, while he was slaughtered like a ram from one end to the other, his throat was also removed probably by his killers.

"I think he should be in his twenties because he is

young like that boy," (he pointed to a young man in his late twenties). He added that another okada rider had identified the body as a colleague from Rigasa village.

When *Daily Trust* visited Barau Dikko where the body was said to have been deposited, the matron on duty as well as the mortuary attendant confirmed that the police deposited a corpse at the hospital's mortuary. "At about 9am this morning, a corpse was brought to the mortuary by the police from Magajin Gari. The corpse was already dead with cuts around his neck. The family later came to identify him but we told them to go to the police for the necessary documentation before they could claim the body for burial," the attendant said.

The police public relations

officer, DSP Sa'ad Yahaya, also confirmed that the police found a corpse under the bridge and have placed him in the mortuary. "One of our staff told an officer at the Sabo Gari police station that there is a corpse at the bank of river Kaduna. The officer instructed a patrol team to take the body to the mortuary. The body was found by the stadium end of the bank with cuts around his neck ostensibly matchet cuts as a matchet was also found beside the body. The body has been taken to the mortuary while investigation continues. The family is yet to contact the police but we are ready to receive and assist them," Yahaya said.

It was not known why he was killed and who the killers are but the police promised to unravel the mystery soon.