

Man sets 8-year-old girl ablaze

From Lami Sadiq, Jos

Police in Plateau State yesterday said it arrested a 60-year-old man for setting an eight-year old girl on fire over claim that she was a witch.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Emmanuel Abu, said the incident occurred in Sabon Layi of Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of the state, adding that the victim, Nancy Dauda, was rushed to a nearby hospital but died due to severity of burns she sustained.

Abu, who briefed journalists on the incident, said the suspect; Yakubu Kwon lured the victim to his house, where he poured petrol on her and struck a match. He said the victim rushed out of the suspect's residents screaming for help.

"The suspect, Yakubu Kwon is in our custody and has confessed to the crime. According to him, he committed the act because he believes the girl was a witch," he said.

2 The police also said it arrested another suspect for poisoning nine youths with Gamalin 20 around Gyel in Bukuru, Jos-south Local Government Area, and that two people died in the incident.

"One died on the spot after the poisoning and the other died on Tuesday. The other seven are on danger list, meaning that their condition is highly critical. They are at the Air force Military hospital," he said.

Abu gave the names of the deceased as Musa Adams, 28 and Ayuba Garba 32, saying the suspect, Emmanuel Paul, is in police custody and has confessed to the crime.

Emmanuel Abu cautioned residents to be weary of the kind of company they keep.