Detectives hunt more persons involved in the beheading of 7-yr-old boy

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

The Commissioner of Police, Lagos State, Mr Fatai Owoseni, has ordered the hunt for the fleeing members of the gang that beheaded a seven-year-old boy in the Ikorodu area of the state.

A man identified as Pastor Adedoyin Oyekan and one Eric were arrested last Friday for allegedly beheading the boy, Kazeem Rafiu, at the Odogunyan area of Ikorodu.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Olarinde Famous-Cole, said that the two suspects had made useful statements and were helping the police in their investigation.

Famous-Cole told City News yesterday that the Police Commissioner had directed the investigating police officers in charge of the case to widen their scope of investigation.

He added that Owoseni had also directed the IPO to probe if the two suspects in police custody were agents of ritualists, or were acting on their own.

Ikorodu town and neighbouring communities have since last year assumed notoriety as a den of ritual killings, with a dreaded gang known as the Badoo boys killing at will.

The police PPRO said, "The case is not an open-and-close one with the arrest of those two suspects. The CP has directed the detectives in charge of the case to see if there are other collaborators, or if they were contracted by a gang of ritualists, or whether the two were acting alone and were the ones who needed the boy's head.

"It is after detectives had exploited all these possibilities that we can say that investigation had been concluded. The CP has ordered the detectives to go after any collaborator and ensure that those behind the killing of the boy were not only arrested but that the full weight of the law be brought to bear on them."

The church owned by the pastor, located at No. 16, Apata-Abo Street, Odo-Kekere where the boy was allegedly beheaded, has since been pulled down by an angry mob, which also besieged the Sagamu road police station.

The boy's body was buried in a nearby canal in the area.