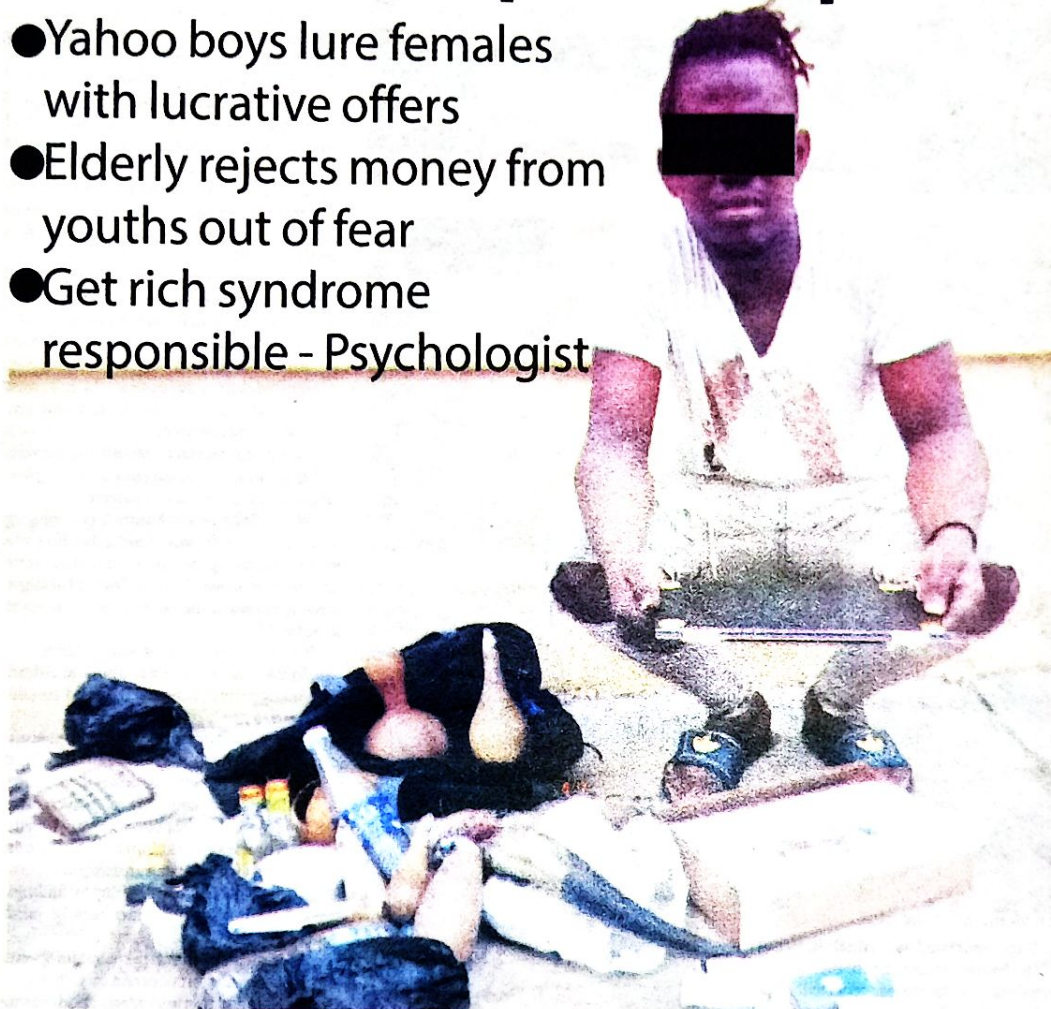


# COVER

## Anxiety as ritual killings, yahoo-plus, rape cases spread

- Yahoo boys lure females with lucrative offers
- Elderly rejects money from youths out of fear
- Get rich syndrome responsible - Psychologist



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**A**s the end of the year draws nearer, residents of Lagos and Ogun states seem to be on the red alert following an incident that took place on Monday when two suspected ritual killers were arrested around the Jibowu area of Yaba with lifeless bodies of two young boys stuffed inside a sack and tucked in the trunk of their car.

Although an investigation is still ongoing on what the suspects intended to do with the bodies of the dead schoolchildren, residents are speculating that they were planning to use them for money rituals.

The preliminary investigation carried out by detectives in the homicide unit of the Lagos State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Pantti Street, Yaba, showed that the children died of suffocation as they were still alive when they were allegedly abducted, fuelling the belief that their abductors intended to use them for money rituals.

Days earlier, four young men who left their Lagos residence to seek the help of a herbalist in Ijebu-Ode in Ogun State for money ritual were

arrested by detectives attached to the South West regional security outfit, Amotekun.

The suspects were arrested at Maborede Street by the security men when their movement on a motorcycle became suspicious.

During interrogation, the suspects alleged that they paid N25, 000 to procure a money-making charm from the herbalist to enable them to become rich.

The commander of Amotekun in the state, David Ajibola Akinwumi, a retired commissioner of police, ordered his men to go after the herbalist.

On Wednesday, October 6, a young woman named Ijeoma set out very early in the morning to go to her workplace at Victoria Island, unknown to her that the wolves in sheep's clothing were already out looking for whom to devour.

She innocently boarded a vehicle, which the driver claimed to be heading to Victoria Island. Narrating her ordeal, she said, "At the Mangoro bus stop, I entered a vehicle that called for passengers going to Victoria Island. I jumped in, not knowing that it was 'one chance'."

"As we moved on, the driver diverted towards another road, going towards Ogba. When I tried to raise the alarm, I was strangled from behind and threatened that if I shouted I would be killed. I was manhandled, beaten, and my phones, ATM and cash collected. Then they rubbed a hot ointment known as 'Aboniki'

into my eyes. My mouth was closed as they threatened to take me to a herbalist. I prayed fervently and later they threw me out of the vehicle."

She was discharged from the hospital on Friday morning, but still battling pain in her eyes.

About a week ago in Akure, the Ondo State capital, residents of the Oke Ijebu area woke up to discover the corpse of a middle-aged woman dumped by the roadside.

It was said to have been allegedly dumped by some suspected Yahoo boys who had probably used her for a money ritual.

It was observed that none of the residents who trooped out to catch the glimpse of the corpse could identify it.

They said some items such as cream, sponge, tablets, bra and clothes packed inside black nylon were placed beside the corpse.

A telephone number written on a small sheet of paper with the name Joy was also seen inside the black nylon.

A few days ago, a man named Samuel Lucky Akpan was arrested for allegedly kidnapping a four-year-old boy at the Alagbaka area of Akure, with the intent of selling him for N200, 000.

It would be recalled that the daughter of a former Ondo State deputy governor, Lasisi Oluboyo, was killed by her boyfriend about two years ago for a money ritual.

The deputy governor's daughter, Khadijat

Oluboyo, was a student of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko at the time.

The boyfriend, Adeyemi Seidu, a graduate of the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), who killed and buried her in his room has since been sentenced to death by hanging.

The Lagos State police public relations officer, Adekunle Ajisebutu, advised parents and guardians to be more vigilant, vowing that the law enforcement officers would deal with anyone involved in illegal activities.

He, however, dismissed claims of the rise in ritual killings by Yahoo + boys. He said it was mere speculations.

"Although we cannot entirely dismiss all the allegations, there is nothing like an increase in ritual killing," he said.

**How victims are lured**

Residents of Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, woke up to a gory sight of a mutilated body of an eight-year-old Chikamsa Victory, who was a victim of a Yahoo-Yahoo ritual killer, who happened to be her cousin.

Ifenayi Dike, a brother to the mother of the deceased, who lived in the same compound with them in 2017, lured the little girl to his apartment and snuffed life out of her. After killing her, Dike, who was sentenced to death last year by a Port Harcourt High Court, removed some of her vital body parts. But luck ran out of him as he was arrested by a vigilante group when he made his way to dispose of the body of the deceased.

The incident generated public outcry in Rivers State and beyond.

Dike was alleged to be working for a deadly ritual group. He confessed at the early stage of his interrogation that he wanted to supply the body parts of his victims to a certain businessman in Port Harcourt.

Another pathetic story is the case of a Port Harcourt-based serial killer, Gracious David-West.

David-West, who was also sentenced to death early this year, was the brain behind the death of about 12 young girls in different hotels located in Port Harcourt in 2019.

The convict had lured his victims to different hotels, where he drugged them before killing them.

After killing his victims, David-West would use white cloths to tie their hands and neck.

His atrocities were seen as ritual killing, given the way he murdered his victims.

He was arrested when CCTV footage of the last hotel he killed his victims exposed him.

Chokocho Etche in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State has also become a den of ritual killers.

A victim of ritual activities going on in the area narrated recently how she watched human beings butchered and their parts sold out to willing buyers.

The victim, whose name could not be disclosed in this report for security reasons, boarded a bus with other passengers but ended the journey in Chokocho forest where deadly ritual killers operated.

She told journalists in Port Harcourt how victims in the custody of the ritual killers were butchered and sold out to buyers, who she said drove into the bush with expensive cars to buy human parts.

The Rivers State police command said they were trailing ritual killers.

**Yahoo boys lure females with lucrative offers**

Activities of ritual killers called yahoo boys have caused panic among female students in all the tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State as they lure most of them with lucrative offers and hard currencies.

According to a female student from the Federal University, Otuoke, who declined to be named, most of the ritualists come from the neighbouring state with exotic cars and

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