

Regional news from **SOKOTO,  
ZAMFARA AND KEBBI STATE**

## Six suspected ritualists nabbed over killing of 9-year-old boy in Zamfara

**From Shehu Umar, Gusau**

Zamfara State police command has arrested six people in connection with the killing of a nine-year-old boy for ritual purpose in Gusau, Caliphate Trust has learnt.

The police had launched a manhunt for the culprits after a tip-off that the boy was seen with one of them on the day he was abducted and killed.

The suspects, upon interrogation by the police, revealed that they were assigned to kill the boy and extract parts of his body by an individual in Tudun Wada area of Gusau metropolis.

One of them was reported to have said they had earlier killed two persons for ritual. He said he had been experiencing nightmares over the killing as the slain boy kept appearing to him in his dream smiling.

The ring leader of the group responsible for the ritual killing was

later apprehended and confessed to security operatives that he was the brain behind the killing of the boy.

Sources said the suspects had named one person in the state's business community but that could not be independently verified.

The remains of the boy, identified Ahmad Aliyu Ijaba, was found in an uncompleted building in Barakallahu area of Gusau metropolis in December.

The owner of the building spotted the decomposing body of the little boy when he went to continue his construction work and immediately alerted the police.

Ahmad went missing shortly after he came back from Islamiyya School in Gadar Baga area of the city.

The state police command's spokesman, SP Muhammad Shehu, said investigation is ongoing and that he would not talk further about the matter.