

# Kidnapped 4-year-old boy killed despite ransom

**From Olatunji Omirin, Maiduguri**

Alhaji Bakura, the father of a four-year-old boy, Baba Mohammed, has revealed how his son was allegedly kidnapped and killed by his neighbour in Maiduguri, Borno State, even after paying N250, 000 ransom.

Bakura told *Daily Trust* that he didn't know the offence that made the neighbour, one Abati Buba, commit the alleged crime. The incident happened in the Gwange area of Maiduguri.

He explained that his son went missing on a Friday evening and the following morning, someone called him demanding a ransom.

Bakura said he paid the sum as negotiated and the kidnappers assured him of his son's safe return only to discover later that the boy had been killed and his corpse dumped near his house.

Buba was said to have confessed when he was arrested by officials of

the Department of State Services.

"We never knew it was my neighbour that abducted my son, collected ransom and later killed him. The DSS arrested him (Abati Buba) and he confessed that he kidnapped Mohammed and killed him," Bakura narrated.

Reacting, Chairman of the Civil Society Organisations in Borno State, Bulama Abuso, urged security agencies to immediately unravel circumstances surrounding the boy's murder and ensure proper prosecution of the perpetrator.

The Police Public Relations Officer in Borno State, ASP Sani Shatanbaya, confirmed the incident, adding that the culprit had been handed over to the police for investigation.

"It is true a suspect has been arrested in connection with that incident by DSS and subsequently handed over to us. I can confirm that he is currently in our custody. The investigation is still ongoing," he said.