

Suspected wizard tortured to death

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A 72-YEAR-OLD man, Adamu Muqaddas, was last Friday allegedly tortured to death on the order of the village head of Larna'a, Gabana ward of Warji Local Council of Bauchi State for being a suspected wizard.

The 35-year-old village head, Gado Abdulkarim, was allegedly said to have ordered his subjects to torture the septuagenarian with a view to forcing him to confess to witchcraft. The man, however, died in the process.

Confirming the crime in a statement made available to journalists in Bauchi at the weekend, the Bauchi State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Haruna Mohammed, said the old man was rushed to the Warji General Hospital, where he was certified dead by police detectives from Warji Division, who intervened at the scene of the crime.

“On November 21, at about 1pm, one Adamu Muqaddas aged 72, was summoned by the village head of Larna’a, Gabana Ward in Warji Local Council based on the allegation that he was a wizard. The village head ordered his subjects to subject the victim to torture, in the bid to force him to confess to the allegation. He eventually died in the process,” the PPRO said in the statement.

He added that three suspects has been arrested by the police in connection with the crime for conspiracy and culpable homicide.

According to DSP Mohammed, the arrested suspects include the village head, Gado Abdulkarim; 33-year-old Adamu Hassan and Ibrahim Musa, aged 47. They are all residents of Larna’a village.

The police spokesman stated that investigation was in progress, adding that the suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigation was concluded.

In another development, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) informed that a suspected fraudster, one Adamu Mohammed Inuwa, was arrested by the police in Bauchi.

According to the police spokesman, Inuwa, a resident of Bakin Kura Street in Bauchi metropolis, was arrested last Friday at the Bauchi branch of United Bank for Africa (UBA) while attempting to withdraw the sum of N773,400 he obtained fraudulently from one Yakubu Safiyanu of Lafia, Nasarawa State.

The suspect, DSP Mohammed said, obtained the money under false pretense that he would get employment for his victim with the Nigeria Immigration or Nigerian Prisons Service.

He, however, stated that investigation into the matter was in progress.

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