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Murdering For Money

By virtue of their relationship, he was supposed to protect the interest of the young girl, but Kanaru Yusuf, a 25-year-old man, decided to commit an oddity. He allegedly killed his eight-year old niece, Omobola Moses, to achieve a selfish end.

Yusuf killed the hapless Omobola and severed her head for a ritual purpose. It was an illegal act he allegedly carried out in conspiracy with one Adesina Adesakin, a 20-year-old man at Ira town in Oyun Local Government area of Kwara State.

The two men are traders in Ondo State. They decided to be rich and the only way they felt they could accomplish their dream was to perform a money-making ritual.

In order to achieve this, they consulted an herbalist who would perform the ritual but, perhaps, they did not listen to the instruction of the herbalist as they made for the head of the victim.

The two men were caught after their alleged murderous act by the Kwara State Police Command which recovered from them the body and the severed head of Omobola.

The police commissioner, Audu Abubakar, said the suspects adopted the young girl before killing her and severing her head for their intended ritual purpose.

He said the unfortunate girl was lured from her parent by her uncle, Yusuf, who took her to the bush and strangulated her to



• Yusuf holding the head of late Omotola death.

The police boss noted that the alleged ritualist took the severed head of Omobola to their

herbalist, one 55 years old Salu Oyewole for the ritual to get rich. He said the herbalist rejected the fresh skull on the excuse that he

requested for a dry one. He said the suspects, in order to conceal their murderous act, dumped the head and the body of the

deceased in a forest near Ira where they were recovered by police detectives.

Abubakar added that the suspects confessed to the crime and made useful information on interrogation by the police.

They were paraded with the severed head before newsmen at the state police headquarters in Ilorin. The herbalist told journalists that he rejected Omobola's head from them because he did not ask them to bring a fresh skull.

He said when the men came to him for a money-making ritual (*ogun owo*) he told them he did not do such ritual but that he could do a ritual that would enable them have fortune (*awure*) in their business.

The herbalist stated that he asked the men to look for a dry human skull for him to perform the ritual, but that he was surprised when the men came with a fresh skull.

Yusuf and Adesakin confessed that they committed the offence. They also confirmed the explanation of the herbalist.

The police commissioner said the suspects would be charged to court. He expressed hope that the fate of the alleged ritualists would serve as deterrence to others with such intention. Killing for ritual purposes has become very common in the state and country as a whole.

There is hardly any day that passes without the police arresting suspects of ritual killing. Many people attribute the upsurge in money-spinning rituals to the level of poverty in the land.