

'I saw ritualists slaughtering human being like goat'

By **Patience Ogbodo**
Correspondent, Bauchi

25 YEARS old Patience Bitrus who escaped from the hands of ritualists in Bauchi State last week is yet to get over the shock. Bitrus who witnessed how one of the kidnapped victims was slaughtered was visibly shaking when narrating her ordeal to *Saturday Independent*.

She miraculously escaped death but her co-traveler was not lucky, she was killed and her body parts cut into pieces by the ritualists. Narrating how God saved her life, Bitrus said "the incident happened at about 11am last Sunday after she attended a church service. "My boyfriend, Sunday Noma took me to the Central Market Motor Park in Bauchi to board commercial bus to Kangare to meet my aunty."

"When we got to the park, I was standing beside a car when a woman came on a motorcycle and she asked her



•Bitrus

destination and she replied Kangare, I hesitated to join

the vehicle because five men were at the back seat. One of

them persuaded us to join them. The men said they were

traveling too, and we all left. But to my surprise, when the car got to Kangare, the driver refused to stop the car. I was about to shout when one of them dragged and over powered me. The driver kept driving until the car travelled past Kangare and got to Bishi."

"The driver took us to a bush at Bishi and left us with the men that were in the car. They were joined by another set of men. They led us into a path and started beating and shouting on us to move fast. We sat on a rock. They asked us to make our last call. I called my boyfriend and told him what happened and he shouted. They took the phone from me immediately and collected all our money."

"When it was 1pm after discussing among them whom to kill first, they finally brought the woman who was crying for help and butchered her like goat in my presence. They laid her

on ground, cut her throat and removed her eyes, her breast and other parts of her body. I did not know where I was again. I urinated on my body. I started screaming that I would not die like that and one of them started laughing.

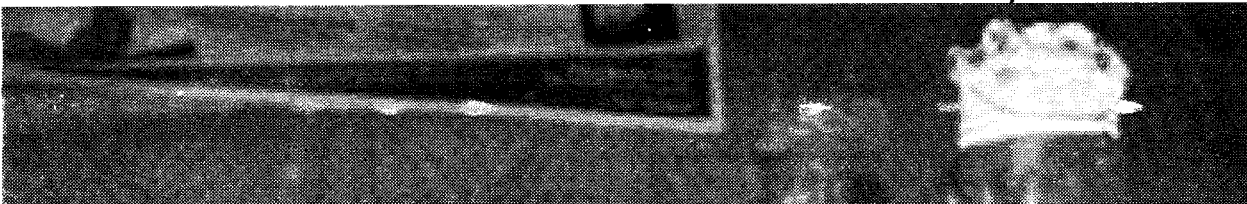
"But as God will have His way, one of the men watching over me slept off, I stood up and ran as fast as my legs could carry me. I ran for over five hours, falling into mud water until I came to the main road and saw a man in a car and stopped him.

After narrating my story, he took me to a police station. I led policemen to where the woman was killed but we could not recover any of her body parts. I thank God for saving my life." However, when our correspondent contacted the Deputy Public Relations Officer, Bauchi State Police Command, Mohammed Auyo, he claimed, he was not aware of the incident.

At 70, I'm no longer afraid of death –Balogun

By **Oladele Ogunsola**,
Correspondent, Ibadan

"**THE** event has cheapened death in my estimation. I'm no more afraid of death with what I saw and heard. It was a good testimony to the adage



South West, Laoye Sanda, the Second Republic governor of Kaduna State said the twin problems of unemployment and poverty "are not acceptable to Nigeria and the people in government must arrest them without delay". He further emphasised that political