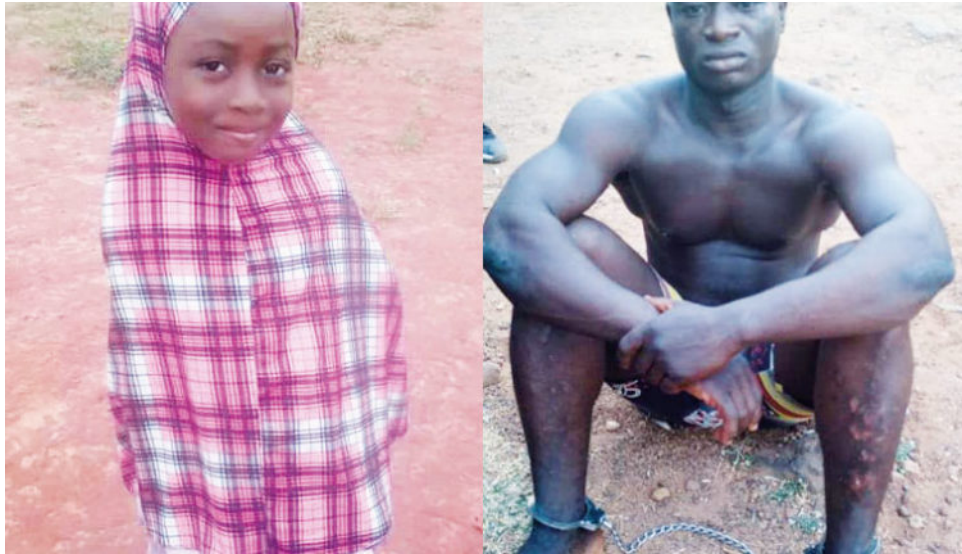


We Killed Six-Year-Old Girl Because Family Couldn't Afford Ransom, Gang Leader Confesses



By Andrew Utulu On Jan 23, 2021 5:33 AM

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Farida and Domuzu

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LAGOS – Friday Domuzu, the leader of a gang that terrorised villages in Kogi State and its environs has disclosed how a girl they kidnapped for ransom died in captivity.

Domuzu, who was arrested by operatives of the Nigeria Police Force Intelligence Response Team (IRT), revealed during a confessional statement that his gang members kept the deceased identified as Farida Yahaya in a camp located in a thick forest, while awaiting the payment of a huge ransom from her parent.

Reacting to Domuzu's arrest, Frank Mba, Force Public Relations Officer (FPRO), said that the victim was abducted alongside one Abdulraheem, a 14-year-old boy who escaped from the kidnappers den.

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CP Mba told Saturday INDEPENDENT, in a statement that investigations by the police team revealed that the kidnappers killed the little girl because her family could not pay the amount demanded.

“Efforts by the police team to rescue the little girl led to the arrest of the principal suspect, Friday Domozu who led the police team to a deep forest at Gabije area of Kogi State where the remains of the little girl were recovered.

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“The police team also exhumed the decomposing body of another victim later found to be 40 years old, Ibrahim Madaki earlier declared missing.”

The suspect, who claimed to be a dismissed ex-military trainee, further confessed about a series of kidnap, killing, and burning of a contractor.

Confessing Domozu said: “I was applying native medicine on my broken leg when some boys, one of them is well known to me, came from Nassarawa and asked me to join them to pick one man. They told me that the man was owing them. Initially, I refused but they convinced me. It was at night, so I waited outside while the four of them with their AK47 entered and came out with two children. We took them to Gabeji area, inside the thick forest.

“We contacted their family and started asking for money if they want their children alive and returned home. They told us that the small girl had sickle cell and we told them to hurry up if they wanted her home alive. We fed them roasted yam, banana that we found in the forest, and stream water.

“Unfortunately, on the fourth day, the boy escaped because the person watching him slept off. We went to the forest to look for him, but we found a man who identified as Ibrahim cutting wood. He challenged us that he knows what we are doing in the bush. He claimed that he saw the boy and would report us if we did not release the girl. We overpowered him and tied him up, while we called his boss to send money if he wanted him alive.

“We took him back to the forest and the next day the girl died. She was shouting that her stomach was hurting her, so we mixed some herbs and gave her a drink. Unfortunately, she died. We were still contemplating what to do when the man that we also abducted picked a machete and hit one of us on the head. We got angry and killed him. We dropped the two corpses by the stream.

“It was when the police arrested us that we saw that the body was burnt. We did not take anything that day, maybe it’s the people that burnt the body that did that.



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“If I tell the family, those boys will kill me. That is why I had to continue visiting the community so that they will not suspect that I was part of it. I was surprised when the police picked me and had so much information about my involvement. I had no choice but to confess. I am so sorry and I know that my fate is in God’s hand.”

Reacting to the incident, the father of the deceased, Yahaya Ibrahim, said, “On November 2, 2020, at about 8 pm, some hoodlums entered the compound and chased my family inside the room and grabbed two of them into the bush. The next day, they called me that they were kidnappers and that I should bring N12 million. We started negotiating. Luckily, one of them escaped after four days.

“At a point, we decided to look for people to help us find the gang dead or alive. They were able to get the leader of the gang. They told us that they had killed the child. We went into the thick forest where we found what was left of my child. We discovered that they have cut off the head.”

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