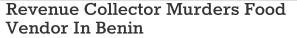
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Patrick Ochoga

— February 21, 2014

A suspected revenue collector, who is now at large, reportedly slaughtered a female food vendor in Benin City with a machete.

According to reports, the victim was attacked by the man in a make-shift

kitchen on Butcher Street, off Mission Road, for an undisclosed amount which is said to be the "daily revenue".

The victim, a native of Enugu State, was said to have begged for more time to enable her finish cooking and attend to a few customers, so as to raise some money to pay her daily due, but her pleas fell on deaf ears.

LEADERSHIP FRIDAY understands that the revenue collector had attempted pouring the hot, edible oil which she was using to fry some meat into the fire, but the woman moved to stop him. In anger, the revenue-collector turned on her, using his machete to make deep cuts on her thighs, ribs, head and arms.

The attacker was said to have shut the exit door to the kitchen against the victim before using the machete to mutilate her.

Other bewildered traders who had, until then, not paid close attention, were attracted by her screams. In anger, they lost their patience and registered their protest with the Lagos Street police post, where they were informed that the post had no operational van to assist the dying woman who could only mutter words.

The traders described the bizarre incident as one too many, stating that the Lagos Street police post has long ceased to be a place where they hope to get justice and called for an end to impunity and alleged extortions by street urchins loyal to a prominent musician who resides in the area.

When the Oba Market Divisional police officer, CSP (Mrs) Betty Otimenyin, was reached via a telephone call, she claimed to have no knowledge of the incident.

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