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Boy, 10, Set Ablaze Over Witchcraft Allegation In Lafia

LE Mon, 27/08/2012 - 1:02am | DONATUS NADI

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A ten-year-old boy (names withheld) was in Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital, set ablaze for allegedly being a witch.

The incident which took place on Shalele street, near Immaculate Primary School, Lafia-East, Lafia, caused the child to be hospitalised at Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital (DASH), Lafia.

The Nasarawa State Child Protection Network (CPN) which got wind of the incident has decided to take over the issue legally. The men who perpetrated the act - one Adamu and one Suleiman - were said to have gone to the boy's house at about midnight when his parents were not around, put pepper in his eyes, poured petrol over his body and set him on fire.

LEADERSHIP investigations revealed that the men took the action sequel to a complaint by Adamu's wife that the

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boy appeared to her in a dream in the form of a lizard and attacked her. Although LEADERSHIP learnt that at the time of the incident, the parents of the boy were not at home as the father was reported to be ill and hospitalised in Wamba LGA of the state, the boy's elder brother and aunt watched helplessly as the men engaged in their evil act.

Reacting to the incident, the CPN Coordinator in the state, Barrister Evelyn Kaderi said the group had decided to take up the matter formally to ensure that the perpetrators were brought to justice.

LEADERSHIP however gathered that the suspects are making efforts to settle the matter out of court, but Kaderi said the decision was unacceptable to CPN.

She stressed that if the suspects were punished for their actions, it would serve as a deterrent to other people who have no regard for human life and who to take the laws into their hands.

The rights group told the mother of the child, Jamila Haruna, that CPN would not relent in its efforts at ensuring that justice prevailed.

The boy who spoke with newsme on his hospital bed in the children's ward of the DASH, Lafia said he was recuperating from the burns. Also speaking to LEADERSHIP in Hausa, the boy explained that the men came to his house at about midnight and ordered him out of his room, saying his friend (Suleiman) had accused him of witchcraft.

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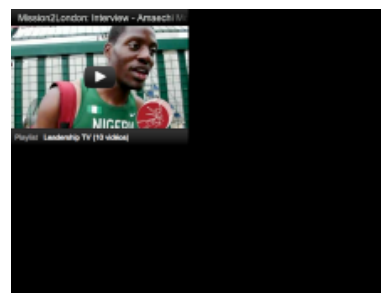
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