

# Man, 25, accused of beheading niece

•For money making ritual

The Kwara State Police Command has arrested a three-man gang who specialised in kidnapping people for rituals. Their last victim was an eight-year old girl, reports **BIODUN OYELEYE**

**T**HE Kwara State Police Command is counting its gains since a new helmsman, Alhaji Audu Abubakar took over about three months ago.

The latest of their breakthrough, is the arrest of a three-man gang of ritualists that decapitated an eight-year old girl for money.

Abubakar, who paraded the suspects before reporters in Ilorin, the state capital, with other criminals, said residents and parents must learn from the incident.

He said the deceased, identified as Omobola Moses, was lured to her untimely death by her uncle Kamaru Yusuf.

The warning became more poignant, considering the case of another suspect who was employed as a home teacher to a set of girls but ended up allegedly raping one of them.

The entire command headquarters was thrown into a foul mood when Abubakar asked his men to bring out Omobola's decomposing head to be shown to reporters. The 52-year old herbalist allegedly involved in the case, Saliu Oyewole, himself was moved to pity as he watched his accomplice, Kamaru Yusuf lift the head for camera shots.

Yusuf, who told reporters he worked as a bricklayer, looked unruffled during the few minutes he shared with reporters, saying the herbalist had allegedly done similar deeds successfully for some three others before nemesis caught up with them.

He said the desire to become rich forced him into money ritual.

According to the police boss, the incident took place on August 27, at Ira, a village in Oyun Local Government Area, when Yusuf (25) along with Adesina Adesakin (20) killed Omobola and took her head to Oyewole for the ritual.

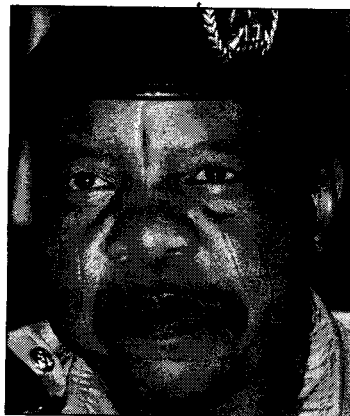
Said he: "The two are both traders, resident in Ondo State.

On consultation with the herbalist, he requested for a fresh human head which the suspects agreed to provide.

"In order to meet the request, Yusuf, who is an uncle to Omobola, lured her from her parents, took her into the bush and strangulated her. He severed her head, which was then taken to the native doctor. Subsequently, the herbalist rejected the head on the excuse that he had requested for a dry head.



•Yusuf with the decomposing skull



•Abubakar

In order to conceal this, the suspects dumped the head and body in a forest near Ira town where it was later recovered by detectives. The suspects made useful statements to the police, confessing to the crime."

Apart from the girl's case, there was also that of one Ojo Odeyemi who was paraded for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl (names withheld) at Princess Road,

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Ilorin.

Odeyemi had been employed by the girl's parents to teach their daughter and her sister Mathematics after school hours but allegedly raped one of them after he had sent the younger sister on errand. Their parents were

not at home then.

He was said to have been apprehended after the younger girl came back and found the door locked and after it was opened she found her sister holding on to the cloths of the suspect.

A few weeks before the latest briefing, Abubakar had also paraded some 11 suspects arrested for various crimes as a result of what he described as new vigilance by the command.

During that period, six firearms were seized, five vehicles recovered along with one generating set, one motorcycle and several other properties.

The police boss said the new results shows an improved confidence from members of the public whom he noted had been instrumental to the various arrests.

"Without them we couldn't have achieved anything", he said. Abubakar called for greater co-operation as he expressed a desire to see the crime statistics in the state go down drastically in the coming months.