

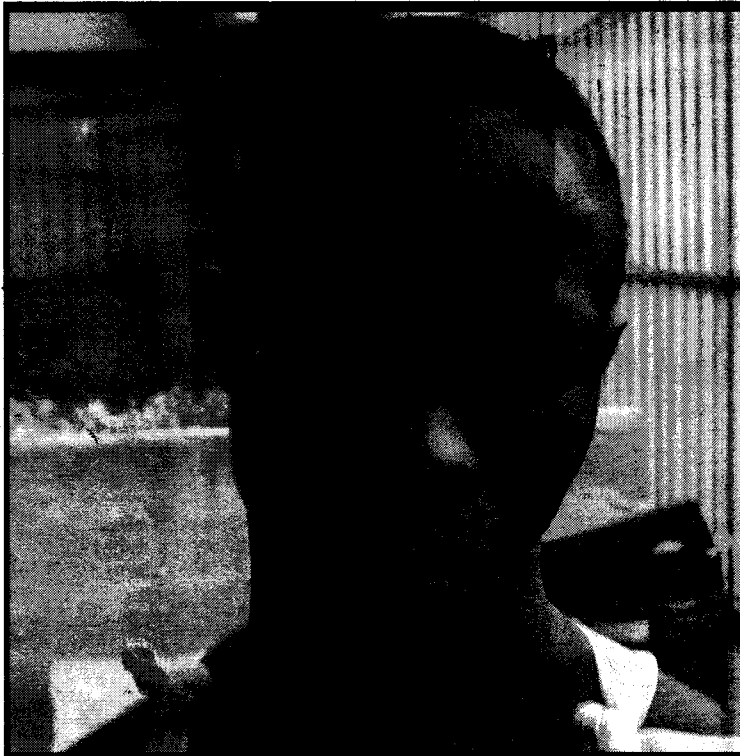
# 'Why I killed my one-year-old daughter'

**A** MURDER suspect in police net, Mr. Sule Salawu, aged 21, from Ondo State but residing at John Street, opposite Tejuoso Market, Yaba, Lagos has said that it was the temporary madness he was suffering from that pushed him to kill his one-year-old daughter, Seun by throwing her into Iddo Motor Park river.

Narrating the incident to *The Nation* shortly before he was taken back to the cell in the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti, Salawu said that when he and his wife, Serah arrived Iddo Park after short holiday to their native town Friday, March 21, 2008 at about 9.00pm, the devil entered into him and when they alighted from the bus, he snatched the baby from her hand and flung her into the river.

He said: "Something told me I should throw the baby into the river; and I did. The water carried her away. My wife and I went home. I did not go back to retrieve the corpse. Unfortunately for me, my wife sneaked out the following day (Saturday) and went to reveal to her brother how I threw my daughter into the river. She and her brother went to Sabo Police Station and lodged complaint against me. At about noon the following Monday, detectives from Sabo Police Station arrived my house and whisked me away to their station."

Continuing he said: "While there, they asked me what happened that my wife complained that I killed our daughter. I told them that I merely snatched the baby from her hand and flung her into the river when we alighted from a bus at Iddo Park. The moment we got down from the bus, something got into me like water spirit; so, I threw the baby into the river. I did not know what I was doing. It has been happening to me; I call it temporary



• Sule Salawu

■ **Ebele BONIFACE**  
madness because it usually lasts for about one hour after which I become normal again."

Responding to a question of how he realises the moment of his temporary madness, Salawu said: "I am normal now but even if it starts now, I will not be violent always. My own madness is temporary. It comes and goes in hours. The SCID, Panti Police Station cell is an international psychiatric home. Only one hour in the cell will cure you your temporary madness. You will see inmates worse than you; people who suffer from all sorts of madness. So, my own is a small one and I am cured. Don't be afraid of me. I will not harm a crime reporter."

On what he meant by inmates

who suffer all sorts of madness, he said: "Armed robbers are many there, people who eat human beings are many, chronic madmen too are in large number there. In fact, people who will eat you raw if you mess up there are watching you every minute, to pounce on you. I was cured of my madness the first day I entered Sabo Police Station cell before I was transferred to the mother of all cells: SCID, Panti cell."

On his medical history, he said: "I had psychiatric problem in 2005. That day, something just entered my right ear. It started itching me all over my body. I went to one private hospital at Ebute Metta and the doctor advised me to take some medicine for three days so that

he could monitor the progress. Anytime my body started scratching me, something would be cracking in my brain and whenever I took two tablets of Panadol, everything would stop."

On why he could not go to a psychiatric hospital when he noticed that he was becoming mentally disturbed, he said: "I was confused. My wife and I were not quarrelling. But whenever I begged her to take me to the hospital, she would tell me that *na psychiatric problem just de worry me*. I was looking for a person to follow me to psychiatric hospital to know how much they would charge to treat me. I was on my own. My wife was not helping me. *She de wait for the day I go waka enter market and she go take over my house*."

On whether his wife had an inkling that he was going to throw their daughter into the river, Sule said, "No, she did not know. Even when I snatched the baby from her hand, she started crying. My wife is innocent please. *The only place wey she dey bad be say she no dey hear word. Husband na sara for her. She wan husband me. If she waka and I ask am question, e bi like say na mumu I be, but I no fit beat am. Na bad spirit from water enter me and I de do like Kolo Menta. De tin wey she do to me no good at all; she no fit take me to hospital, she no even fit wash my clothes*."

Efforts to contact the officer in charge of homicide, CSP Raphael Onyia to know whether the suspect would be taken to psychiatric hospital proved abortive while the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of SCID, Panti, Mr. Leye Oyeade was busy issuing instruction to depart mental heads in a meeting; hence he could not be contacted at the time of filing this report.