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Girl, 11, beheaded by uncle

10/12/2008



What could have made a man to allegedly kill his niece? That is the poser before the police in Delta State following the killing of an 11-year-old girl, Loveth Balogun, allegedly by her uncle. The late Miss Balogun was reportedly lured into a bush where she was beheaded. Shola O'Neil reports

Two pastors in Udu Local Government, Delta State have been arrested by the police in connection with the murder of an 11-year-old girl. She was allegedly killed for money-making rituals.

The girl, identified as Loveth Balogun, was beheaded last Saturday in Egini, allegedly by her uncle.

The suspect has been arrested and is being detained at the Ovwian-Aladja Police Station.

But two pastors of a new generation church in the community were picked up following confessional statements by the prime suspect shortly after his arrest.

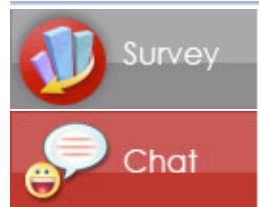
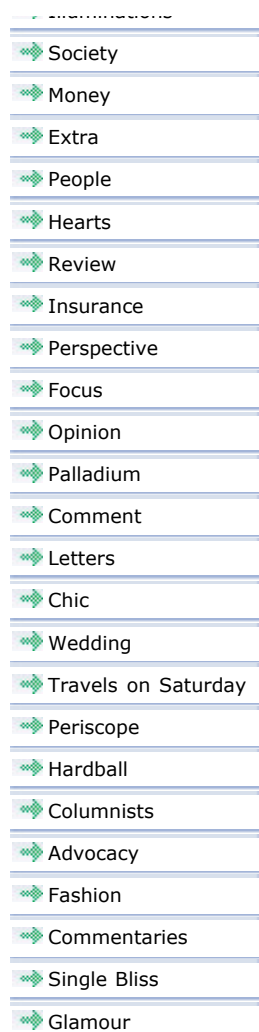
A source told our correspondent that the victim had been living with her father's elder brother, Mr. Collins Balogun, before her death.

On the fateful day, one of her uncles lured her away shortly before midday under the pretext that he wanted to send her on an errand.

"He took her to a nearby bush where he cut off her head and abandoned her headless body. He made away with the head hidden in a shopping bag," the source said.

But nemesis caught up with him when a member of the community sighted him wielding the bloodied cutlass afterwards. The terror-stricken resident raised the alarm that attracted other members of the community.

"He was brandishing the cutlass dangerously, but when he saw youths from the community pouring out, he threw away the bag, where the head of the young girl was discovered," the source added.



Exchange Rates (NGN)

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| CFA | 0.2016 |
| DANISH KRONER | 19.8152 |
| EURO | 147.7447 |
| POUNDS STERLING | 185.7788 |
| RIYAL | 30.8187 |
| SDR | 171.2851 |
| SWISS FRANC | 100.6444 |
| US DOLLAR | 115.57 |
| WAUA | 170.5505 |
| YEN | 1.1885 |

As at 3/11/2008

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The suspect, who absconded from the community, was later arrested by Egini youths who mobilised to nearby communities in frantic search for the suspect. He was found on Sunday.

Police spokesman Charles Muka said four persons had been arrested in connection with the incident.

He said the police would ensure that all the culprits were brought to book.

the grief-stricken mother of the child, Mrs. Patience Balogun, who also confirmed the report, urged the police to unmask all those involved in the dastardly act.

The woman said she was forced to take the late Loveth and her siblings to their paternal family in September, when her brothers-in-law allegedly refused to let her benefit from the entitlements paid by her late husband's employers, Saipem Nigeria Limited.


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