

CRIME & OTHER STORIES

Ex-policeman, others held for kidnapping, ritual killings

MEN of the Rivers State Police Command have arrested a former police officer, Eze Onyebuchi, over alleged kidnapping and ritual killing.

The 41-year-old was allegedly dismissed from service in Anambra State in 2010 for complicity in a botched plan to kidnap one Mr. Nwa Okafor, who he was assigned to as an escort.

Onyebuchi was paraded at the Rivers State Police headquarters by the Commissioner of Police (CP), Mr. Tunde Ogunsakin.

He was said to have abducted and killed a woman, simply identified as Vicky, for money-making rituals.

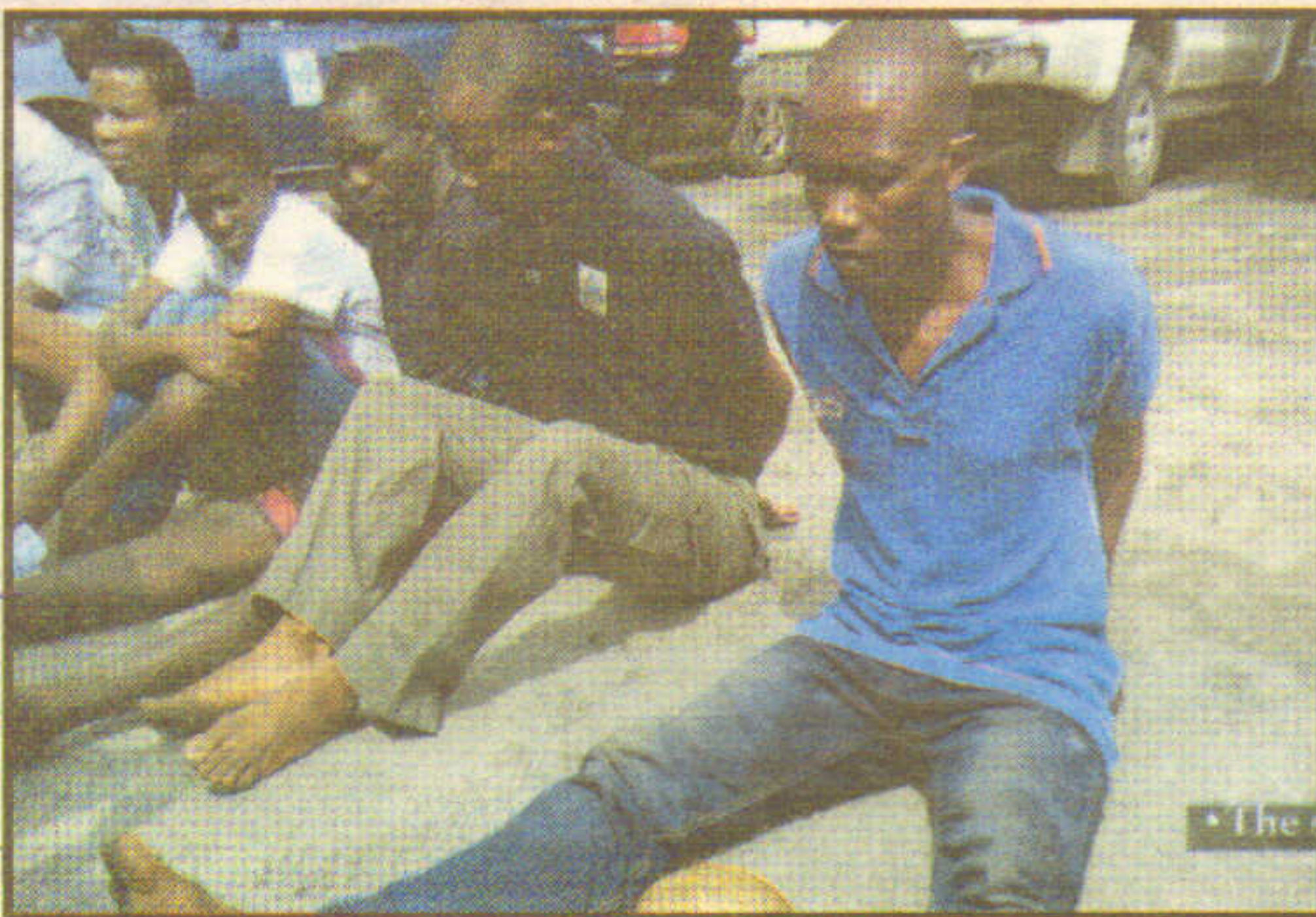
The suspect, however, claimed that the victim died after she was set ablaze by some indigenes of Igwuruta community of Rivers State for stealing cassava.

"This woman, whose skull I am holding, is called Vicky, but I don't know her husband's name. She was killed by some people in Igwuruta community for stealing cassava. She was actually set ablaze and her remains were hidden in a bush. I stumbled on her skull while I was farming around the scene and I took it home to be making money for me."

Asked how much the skull has made for him since he took it home, he said: "It has not made any money for me. I was apprehended barely two weeks after I took it to my residence."

According to Ogunsakin, "the suspect, in his confessional statement, said the skull has been vomiting money ranging from N10 to N20 and N30."

In a related development, two suspects have been arrested for sending threat text messages to people, including a Port Harcourt-based broadcaster. One of the suspects, Ndubueze Udesie, 41, from Abia State, said: "I am very knowledgeable in computer, so somebody approached me to get a profile of some militants for him. I went on the internet and got data of some ex-militants, and I wrote threat letters to one of them."



* The suspects

■ Rosemary NWISI ■

"In the letter, I asked the person to comply by paying the sum of N15 million to a certain account. I was handling the calls myself. From the beginning of the deal, I told my partner that I would handle the 'transaction' myself. I assured him of my competence when it comes to handling phone calls, assuring him that the deal would pull through. Unfortunately, I was tracked down before the payment was fully made, and it was when they came to arrest me that they found the dollar box in my possession."

Another kidnap suspect, Miss Mary Amadi, said: "I threatened a presenter with Wazobia FM, PortHarcourt, Racheal Ohiowe. She

gave out her phone number on air. I did not know what came over me when I copied the numbers and began to send threat messages to her."

Ogunsakin restated the readiness of his men to combat crime in the oil-rich state, saying: "I want to use this medium to reiterate our commitment to continue our crusade against crime and its perpetrators. I want to advise all perpetrators of crime to desist from their actions or relocate from this state. I also thank members of the public for their assistance to the police in combating crime in the state."

"As a law enforcement body, we shall not leave any stone unturned in protecting lives and property in the state, and people should continue to cooperate with us."

Couple in police net over alleged N8.6m fraud