

Human skulls found in Imo 'church'

FIVE buried human skulls and a basin filled with blood were found at a church in an Imo State riverine community last weekend.

The shock find was discovered when youths invaded and searched the premises of Arch of Covenant Ministry in Awara community in Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area of Imo State.

The church's General Overseer Ngozi Odika, believed to be responsible for what was found, was reportedly beaten up by the youths. The self-claimed pastor is believed to

be the one preparing charms for militants and cultists in the riverine communities.

He escaped lynching after the youths attacked him when they stormed the church in protest against his activities.

According to those who witnessed the development, the end came for the activities of the 'man of God', after his girlfriend, who is also his accomplice, was caught with a bag containing fetish objects by ex-militants who were guarding

the community.

The source added: "The lady who was already known to the ex-militants was stopped on her way running an errand for the pastor. She was searched and hairs believed to be that of a human; animal horns and other fetish objects were found on her".

"The angry youths beat up the lady and dragged her to the Pastor at the church where he was waiting for her. The youth also beat up the pastor before handing him over to vigilantes in the area after a

search led to the discovery of the fetish items.

The five human heads were found buried alongside some other skulls of animals under the church's altar. The basin of blood was concealed in another part of the church premises.

During interrogation by the vigilante, the Pastor reportedly confessed to being a spiritual father to the militants who consult him for spiritual powers and charms to protect them from arrest.

Odika is also alleged to be

using strands of hair of babies dedicated at the church for his devilish rituals.

Sources also said some former militants for whom the fake pastor prepared charms, fell out with him after accusing him of stalling the charms' potency when they did not pay him as agreed.

But Police spokesman in Imo State, Andrew Enwerem, said they had not been briefed on the matter.