



'Ritualist' lynched in Bayelsa

From Mike Odiegwu,
Yenagoa

A MOB yesterday lynched a suspected ritualist at Akenfa, a suburb of Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital.

He was reportedly caught while trying to cut the body

of a young woman he was accused of killing.

It was gathered that the woman, identified as Best, an

indigene of Epie, was killed by the suspect.

The community has come under attack by ritualists, who kill women and remove their body parts.

Sources said the suspect threatened to attack the mob with an axe when he was caught, but he was overpowered and burnt to death.

The Nation learnt that the man pretended to be mentally-deranged during the day, but turned to a killer at night.

A source, who spoke in confidence, said: "That was the man that had been killing women at Akenfa. They caught him once when he was trying to kill another woman. I think that was last month. They beat him up but did not hand him over to the police.

"He said he would still kill. This morning, he killed one Epie woman. They caught him when he was killing the woman with an axe. That was

the third woman he had killed so far."

Confirming the incident, police spokesman Asinim Butswat said the suspected ritualist and the women he killed were mentally deranged.

A human rights activist and gender advocate, Princess Elizabeth Egbe, lamented the spate of ritual killings in the community.

She said: "There have been a lot of killings at Akenfa recently. The victims were mainly women. The killers always remove parts such as breast, brain, private parts, eyes, etc. They also remove panties and bra.

"As a human rights activist/gender advocate, I strongly condemn these killings and call on the perpetrators to desist from this barbaric, inhuman and ungodly act. It is violence against women.

"We urge the government to tighten security."

bearing did not fail soil test'

tion and Engineering Company and Jandy Trust Limited.

A fifth defendant, the registered trustees of SCOAN, is facing a one-count charge of building without approval.

They, however, pleaded not guilty.

At the resumed hearing of the matter yesterday, the witness, who testified before Justice Lateef Lawal-Akapo, said when the building collapsed, the BCPG set up a committee and they were asked to look into the possible cause of the collapsed building.

He said they carried out an analysis on the soil and foundation and discovered that the foundation and the bearing

capacity were adequate.

Ologuntoye, a geotechnical engineer, who specialises in soil investigations, quality and assurance control, also gave an analysis on how the tests were conducted at the site of the collapsed building.

The witness said two tests were carried out with Dutch Comb Machine, and the sample was taken to the University of Lagos (UNILAG), laboratory for analysis.

"I carried out geotechnical borehole, and took the sample of the soil from top to bottom. Then the samples taken were taken to UNILAG soil laboratory for analysis."