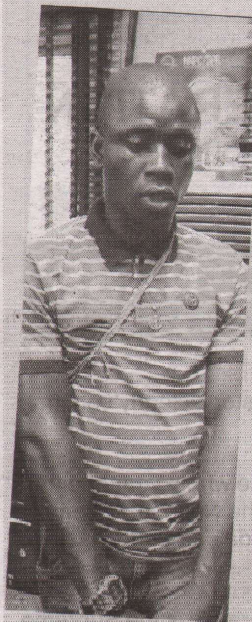
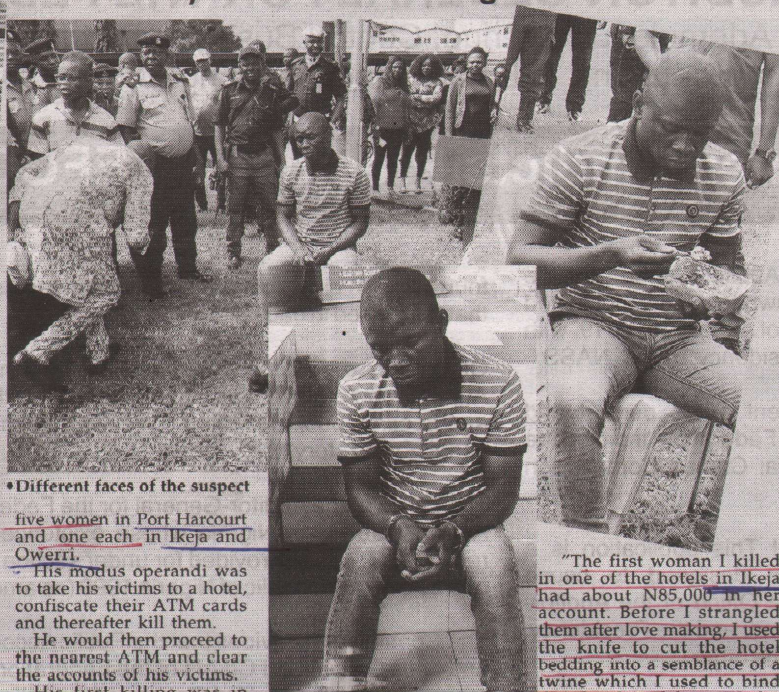


Confessions of an alleged serial killer



- 'How I murdered seven women'
- Says I enjoy killing when the urge comes on me
- 'I killed my first victim in a Lagos hotel'



• Different faces of the suspect

IT was confession time yesterday for the man believed to have been responsible for the serial killing of young women in Port Harcourt over the last few months.

Thirty-nine year old Gracious David West told reporters in the Rivers State capital that he had also killed in Lagos and Imo States.

He put the number of his victims at seven.

He was arrested on Thursday by the police while en route Uyo from Port Harcourt.

His arrest came hours after protests by women groups in Port Harcourt calling for the security agencies to fish out the brains behind the mysterious killings of women in hotels.

West, who hails from Buguma in Asari-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State, claimed that he killed

five women in Port Harcourt and one each in Ikeja and Owerri.

His modus operandi was to take his victims to a hotel, confiscate their ATM cards and thereafter kill them.

He would then proceed to the nearest ATM and clear the accounts of his victims.

His first killing was in Lagos.

"I started the killing in Lagos, that was where I got money because the first girl had N85,000 in her account," West said.

"After that, I went to Port Harcourt, then Owerri. The last girl I killed I met her at the club."

West said he was on his way to Akwa-Ibom when he was arrested by operatives of the special anti-robbery squad, Bori in Rivers.

"When the urge comes, I move into a hotel, invite a girl after and after eating and

■ Rosemary NWISI, ■
Port-Harcourt

making love, I will bring out a kitchen knife and threaten her not to shout," West said.

He added: "I don't know what comes over me to kill. After I have killed, I feel remorse and cry for killing, but after that, the irresistible urge to kill comes over me again. I kill alone."

"I was a member of the Degbam Cult group, I have since repented. I am not killing for any cult group. I just kill. I don't know what comes over me to kill."

"The first woman I killed in one of the hotels in Ikeja had about N85,000 in her account. Before I strangled them after love making, I used the knife to cut the hotel bedding into a semblance of a twine which I used to bind their hands and feet, and also used the knife to threaten them."

"The kitchen knife was sold to me by an aboki. I would threaten that if they raised the alarm, I would kill them with the knife."

"Out fear, they kept quiet while I raised the volume of the television set in the hotel room to prevent any noise from my room. I never killed with the knife."

West also revealed that before he killed his female victims, he insisted on knowing their account balance and ATM pin number.

"After strangulating them,

I would steal their ATM cards, empty their accounts from any nearby ATM machine and move on.

"It was not all the girls I slept with that I killed. I only killed whenever the irresistible urge to kill overwhelmed me."

"I don't have a house. My mother died through poisoning from her mate and I am homeless. I sleep in hotels."

He said that the phones he stole from his victims were sold to a customer in Waterlines Junction, off Port Harcourt/Abia Expressway and another buyer around MTN office by Oil Mill Market in Port Harcourt.

West claimed to be an ex-militant rehabilitated by the Omega Power Ministry (OPM) which also got a job for him at the Federal University of Science and Technology, FUTO, Owerri, through the Church.

He ditched the job after stealing students' property.

Police Commissioner, Mustapha Dandaura who paraded the suspect does not believe that West was acting alone.

"The suspect is definitely not alone in these killings, though he had made useful confessions, but the command will go beyond his confessions to ensure that a conclusive end is achieved that serves the interest of justice," he said.

Dandaura said his insistence that hotels in the state should install Closed Circuit Television Cameras, CCTVs, was beginning to yield positive results.

He vowed that the Police, under his Command would fight crimes headlong in the state, adding that with joint operations with the army and other security agencies, the killings in Ogoniland was dropping, while "I have stabilized East-West road, the Elele-Owerri road."

Woman raises the alarm over son's safety

■ Kunle AKINRINADE ■

A trader, Mrs Oluyemisi Adeyemi has raised the alarm over alleged harassment of her son by suspected traditionalists.

She appealed to security operatives to save his son, Adekunle Adeyemi and his family from the clutch of suspected traditionalists.

According to Oluyemisi, who resides in Bariga area of Lagos, some traditionalists in Omojoda (Odo Ayan) village had continued to threaten her son over his refusal to ascend a chieftaincy stool in the community.

She said Adekunle, a computer engineer and pastor of a Pentecostal church, and his family now live in palpable fear of further attacks by the traditionalists.

She noted that the problem started in 2010 after her son was asked to accept the chieftaincy stool, following the unfortunate occurrences that have characterised the reign of the current occupant of the stool.

"When traditionalists in the village consulted their oracles, it was learnt that the bad development in the town was because the current occupant was wrongfully installed as the traditional ruler of the community; hence their search for my son Adekunle whose reign they believed would improve the situation in the village."

"My son rejected the offer because of his Christian faith that goes against anything that has to do with tradition and the fact that his late father Lawrence Adeyemi had, before his demise in 1989 cautioned his children against the occupation of the chieftaincy stool of Omojoda because of the controversies that trailed the stool in the past, even as he warned of serious consequences against any erring child."

"The level of threat to the lives of my son, Adekunle, and members of his family and futile attempt by the suspected traditionalists to kidnap his wife and only daughter in 2018, forced them to relocate from their last residence in Ogun State to an unknown place. My worry is that despite their relocation, strange faces, and movements, continued to be noticeable at their former residence, heightening my fear that some people are still after them."

She disclosed that she recently received anonymous telephone calls from people suspected to be kinsmen from Omojoda village, who during their conversations with her, vowed to deal with her son, should he refuse to accept the chieftaincy title.

She added: "I am appealing to security outfits in the country to come to my son's aid by warning those who are after his life, to please leave my son alone, as he could not accept the offer given him by his kinsmen."

'I masterminded the killing of my gang's leader'

A notorious kidnapper, Nwobodo Uchechukwu, has revealed that he masterminded the beheading of the leader of his gang, Christian Nkemjika a.k.a School Boy, because he was very greedy.

Uchechukwu was arrested alongside other members of his gang: Tony Rafael, Nnaji Romanus, Nwobodo Uche and Uchechukwu Ibekwe, by the operatives of the Inspector General of Police Intelligence Response Team (IRT).

The suspects were arrested from their hideouts in Rivers and Imo States.

They were said to have kidnapped the Chief



• Uchechukwu (left) and other suspects

■ Ebele BONIFACE ■

on behalf of the gang. He stated that School Boy deceitfully declared a sum of N10 million instead of N20

gang leader; he gave me the sum of N100, 000 to give to the doctor. He told me about the accountant I was to closely watch or monitor and I did as he instructed for about one

THE Police have arrested a 22-year-old woman for allegedly poisoning her three-day-old stepson with a local insecticide called otapiapia in Shakodna village, Shiroro local government area of Niger state.

The suspect, Hurela Uba, who is the first wife of one Mallam Una Saidu gave the poisonous substance to her seven-year-old daughter to administer on her step-brother.

The mother of the deceased baby, Fa'iza Uba had left for bathroom leaving her baby in her room only to return to meet the baby foaming in his mouth, when she returned to the room.

Fa'iza raised the alarm and the baby was rushed him to General Hospital, Kuta where he was confirmed dead by a doctor who said the baby was poisoned.

The incident was reported to the Shiroro Police Division and several people were interrogated regarding the incident.

Woman arrested for allegedly killing three-day-old stepson

■ Justina ASISHANA, Minna ■

Hurela confessed during interrogation that she gave her daughter the insecticide to administer on the baby.

The suspect, an expectant mother, claimed she did not know what pushed her to kill the baby.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Abubakar Muhammad, said the case had been charged to court.

Two dead after falling off moving train