

# crime & security

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## Shock, as father beheads 10-yr-old stepson in A/Ibom

**C**ONDEMNATIONS have trailed the gruesome murder of a 10-year-old boy, who was beheaded by his 43-year-old stepfather.

The stepfather, Mr Felix Lawson, from Onna Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State in Nigeria, had allegedly beheaded his six-year-old step-son, Master Effiong Lawson (fondly called Ifeanyi) over an alleged witchcraft.

Members of the online community on Monday, expressed shock and disdain on the internet, following the news break, while also expressing their fury over the release of the culprit by the Police.

At the Onna Divisional Police Headquarters, the D.P.O. was said to have travelled to Uyo for security briefing, and as such was not available for comments on why Lawson was not charged for murder.

But the Investigation Police Officer (IPO) in charge of the case told a journalist under the condition of anonymity that Lawson was released since no one was willing to come forward to testify about the child's murder.

But an activist in the state, Mr Bassey Eshiet, alleged that the two children and their mother had made corroborative statements to the police indicating that Lawson had killed his step-son.

According to talkofnaija.com, the reporter who broke the story, wrote that a woman, who lives close to the primary school, had reportedly said that she heard Ifeanyi and his step-father's voices that very night but, thought it was the usual beating of the children whenever they were caught around the father's compound.

Reports had stated that Lawson, who was a junior staff member in the riverine Ibeno Local Government Council, unleashed the terror on his step-son over an alleged witchcraft and food.

According to eye witnesses, Lawson, upon hearing his stepson's request for food, went to the boy and slammed the machete on his head.

An eye witness at the scene of the crime told journalists that when the 10-year-old fell down due to the machete impact on his head, Lawson went ahead to cut off the head instantly with the machete.

Reports had it that the deceased's brother, Aniefiok Lawson, told an activist in the state, Mr Bassey Eshiet that, "because we were hungry, Ifeanyi asked me to escort him to the house so that we can beg our younger sister for food to eat.

"We didn't know that daddy was back from Ibeno. So Ifeanyi went closer to the backyard door and told our sister to bring the leftover food for us.

"It was already dark so when daddy



opened the door and jumped out, we ran but my brother could not run faster as he cried "daddy forgive me"; so daddy hit his head with his big cutlass, he fell down and was crying as he continued to hit him with the cutlass.

"I did not hear his voice again. I ran and hid myself in the bush. So, late in the night when the place was calm I went and joined my two friends in the uncompleted building of the Primary School, where we usually sleep at night. I asked them if they saw Ifeanyi, they said 'No', they never saw him again. So in the morning, we saw a lot of blood-spilled over where he was caught by daddy.

"That morning, we found his body without a head in the pool of stagnant water behind one of the school blocks and the head was in the nearby school farm."

The village head of Ikot Ndua Iman in Onna, Chief Akpan Eno, was reported to have been intimidated of the development

and he immediately called the Onna Divisional Police who came and picked the decapitated body of the deceased and arrested Lawson.

But the following day, he was released and he's now a free man walking the streets of Onna.

In an online reaction, one Mr Emmanuel Nkanta, while reacting to the story, wrote this "Wicked Father! God will judge you for killing this innocent boy. If you are sure your son is a witch, why don't you go look for where to deliver him instead of starving him and later killing him.

"The Police are not also helping matters. The village head reported this matter to you and you came for arrest only to release the culprit and claim that no one came forward to put up a statement against the culprit. Are you not encouraging this murderer of a father to kill other children he claims are involved in witchcraft? Let us watch our back, God is watching us!"

### SECURITY TIPS

#### Internet security tips

THERE are many steps that you can take to ensure that your computer does not become prey to an online fraudster. Here are some of them:

##### Update your system and web browser

Manufacturers regularly release security patches when weaknesses are discovered in their systems and browsers. Check with your software provider for these updates on a regular basis.

##### Use a personal firewall and anti-virus software

This can prevent unauthorised access and viruses being downloaded onto your PC when you're on the Internet.

##### Check the padlock symbol and site certificate

Double-click the padlock symbol at the bottom of your browser when you log-in to FirstBank Online Banking to ensure the site certificate belongs to First Bank of Nigeria Plc. This will ensure you're not being duped into entering your details on a 'fake' site.

##### Keep your personal details secret

Never write down or reveal your password.

##### Be extra wary of emails

See the scam email section for all the de-

tails.

##### Check your accounts regularly

If in doubt about any transactions, note the details and report it to the helpdesk.

##### Always log-out after using Online Banking

Just select the log-out button and never

leave your PC unattended while you're logged in to the service.

We automatically instruct most browsers not to store your personal information in the cache (memory) as this may be affected by the type of browser you use.

Always clear the cache yourself.

*Courtesy: FirstBank Ltd*

