

Metro ... crime, security, court

2 men who beheaded 8-yr-old for ritual arrested in Niger

ADELOWO OLADIPO - MINNA

THE Special Tactical Squad of the Inspector General of Police, attached to the Abuja-Minna Highway, has smashed a syndicate which specialised in beheading victims for ritual purposes.

Two suspected ritualists, Abdulrashid Aminu (22) and Ismaila Mohammed (27) who were in possession of a fresh human head at about 9:00p.m., were arrested last Saturday by the Squad along Minna/Paikoro junction during a stop and search operation.

The Niger State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Babalola Olanrewaju Adewole, in a press statement made available to journalists on Tuesday in Minna, said that the victim, whose severed head was found in possession of the suspects, was an eight-year-old boy, identified as Hassan Abubakar of Bakajeba village in Paiko Local Government Area of the state.

The two suspects, according to the release, confessed to the crime, while also informing homicide detectives during interrogation that they cut off the head of the boy with two sharp knives.

DSP Adewole stated further that the two suspected ritualists were currently cooperating with the police on their activities, while efforts were on to track down their third accomplice who fled before he could be arrested.

He added that the suspects took detectives to the

spot where the headless body of the victim was buried.

The father of the eight-year-old boy, Mallam Abubakar Shuaib, had told

police that his son was last seen on Saturday, August 26, when he took a kettle of water from the house to

give an unknown person who was said to be waiting outside the house that evening.

"From that time, the boy

could not be found until his father heard that the police had arrested some suspects with a child's head, which later turned

out to be that of his son," the PPRO stated, while promising that the third accomplice would soon be apprehended.



One of the arrested suspects holding the head of an eight-year-old boy they allegedly killed in Niger State. On the ground is the decapitated body of the victim.

Man who allegedly beat pregnant wife to death remanded in Kuje prison

SALIU GBADAMOSI - ABUJA

A 37-year-old man, Matthew Ankyoor, who allegedly beat his wife to death in June, was on Tuesday remanded in Kuje prison by a high court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Ankyoor was arraigned on a three-count charge bordering on culpable homicide punishable with death before Justice A.O. Ebong, a vacation judge, sitting at Maitema, Abuja.

The defendant, a resident of Lugbe Zone 5 Village, Airport Road, Abuja, was alleged to have, on June 5, at about 8:30p.m., committed a criminal offence by causing the death of one Doosur Ankyoor, who was eight months pregnant, by beating her up severely, while also throwing her face on the ground with the intention of causing her death.

The offence, according to the charge read to him in court, was punishable under Section 221 of the Penal Code Law.

The suspect was also accused of causing the death of the unborn child by act amounting to culpable homicide, thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 236 of the Penal Code Law.

The suspect, however, pleaded not guilty to the three-count charge, which prompted the prosecution counsel, Donatus Abah, to ask the court for a date to commence trial.

Counsel for the defendant, applied orally for the bail of his client, which was turned down by the judge.

While adjourning the case till after the vacation, Justice Ebong ordered that the defendant be remanded at Kuje prison, while directing his counsel to formally apply for his bail.

Go and fulfil your bail conditions, court tells deposed Lagos Baale, wife

AYOMIDE OWONIBI-ODEKANYIN - LAGOS

JUSTICE Hakeem Oshodi of an Ikeja High Court, Lagos State, on Tuesday, dismissed an application filed on behalf of the deposed Baale of Shangisha, Chief Mutiu Ogundare, seeking the review his bail conditions.

The traditional ruler is currently being held in prison custody alongside his wife, Abolanle Ogundare, and one Mohammed Opeyemi Babatunde, pending perfection of their bail condition.

At Tuesday's proceedings, Chief Ogundare's counsel, Chief H. N. Ogirien, specifically asked the court to

reduce some aspects of the bail conditions, especially the part where the deposed traditional ruler was asked to provide a level 17 officer in the state civil service.

"My lord we are unable to secure a level 17 officer of the Lagos State Civil Service. No one is willing to come forward and stand as

surety.

"We also have difficulty getting a traditional ruler to stand as surety. We are simply asking the court to review the bail conditions such that the defendant can easily perfect the bail conditions," Ogirien said.

"This situation is peculiar because a man and his wife

can stand for him.

"Are you saying that there is no traditional ruler within this jurisdiction that can stand for him?" the judge inquired.

The judge, thereafter, dismissed the application of the traditional ruler.

The Ogba Magistrates' Court, where the defendants