

Tuesday, PHOTO: SUNDAY OSUNRAYI

I killed my 6-month-old baby with machete in my mum's presence — Father

By OLUWATOYIN MALIK

A citizen of Republic of Benin residing in Ogun State in Nigeria, Koku Andrew, has narrated how he killed his six-month-old child with two strokes of machete cuts because he knew there would be no one to assist him in taking care of the child after his wife who threatened to leave him left the baby with him.

Andrew disclosed this to the *Nigerian Tribune* on Tuesday during a press briefing by the Ogun State Commissioner of Police, Ahmed Iliyasu, at the state headquarters at Eleweran, Abeokuta, the state capital.

The suspect was arrested on December 24, at Ayedere community in Obada area of Abeokuta for al-

leged intentional killing of his six-month-old baby, Precious.

According to the police commissioner, the suspect was arrested after his wife who is also the mother of the baby, Omowumi Teleda, reported at Adigbe police station at about 9:30p.m that she went out briefly to see her first child she had with her ex-husband, leaving the six-month-old baby with her father, only for her to come back and meet the baby dead.

But Andrew told the *Nigerian Tribune* that his action was not one that he liked; only that he had to do it because he knew he had nobody to help him take care of the child because his wife had expressed her

decision to quit relationship with him and to leave the baby behind.

"When my wife gave birth to the child, she said she would not stay in my house to take care of the baby. I asked her why and she replied there was nothing.

"What happened was that her parents and mine did not approve of our relationship. I told her to be patient with me to raise a family.

"I paid for her to learn hairdressing and after she acquired the skill, I told her to take care of our baby for some time for me to pay for her graduation from the hairdressing school.

"One day, she left the baby and said she was no longer interested in relationship with me. I took the baby to

my mother and narrated what happened to her. My mother replied that it was not her business as she had initially expressed disapproval of our relationship. She said I should find solution to the problem.

"I told my mother I could not cope with taking care of the baby. My wife once left the baby for a week and it was my mother who took care of her.

"At about 12 midnight, I put my child on a chair in front of my mother. The baby was crying so much. I told my mother that after I must have killed my baby, she should look for someone to kill me too because I was tired of her cries.

"It was in my mother's presence that I hit the baby

between last December and January in different parts of

with a machete twice and killed her. I did not run away. It was the community head that later got me arrested," the suspect narrated.

When told that the wife said that she went to check on the son she had in a previous relationship, Andrew said the matter did not happen that way.

When asked why he never gave a thought to the fact that the baby he killed was his, Andrew said he thought about it and cried afterwards.

"I killed her because there would be no one to help take care of her," he said.

Iliyasu said that suspect would be charged o court after the conclusion of police investigation.

He, therefore, expressed the resolve of his officers and men to stop criminals and their activities in the state in the New Year.

Iliyasu said that 10 AK-47 rifles; an AK-49 rifle, 15 pump-action guns and 16 locally made pistols were recovered from the suspects.

Other items recovered included eight vehicles, 140 bags of Indian hemp, fake car number plates, among others.

One of the suspects, Samuel Lucky, arrested for alleged kidnapping confessed to the crime, saying that the kidnapping gang was formed in 2013, and that they usually demanded ransom of about N2 million from victims.

The commissioner was particularly irked by the activities of a suspected criminal who was arrested by the police in the night for transporting 140 bags of Indian hemp from Ilara, a border town of Ogun State, to Benin Republic.