

## Suspected thief set ablaze for allegedly stealing church chairs in A'Tbom

Iniobong Ekponta | Uyo

A suspected thief who was alleged to have stolen some plastic chairs from a church along Atiku Abubakar Way in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital, was on Wednesday set ablaze by a mob.

A resident of the area, who identified herself as Ima Ima Udoma, told journalists that

the incident occurred in the early hours of the day.

She said: "For some time now, things have been missing in the church and the boys had to form themselves into a vigilance group. They were monitoring the premises of the church when the thief tried to escape with some chairs and they swooped on him and

immediately set him ablaze."

Speaking to journalists, a youth in the area said they now resort to jungle justice for criminals because "the services of the police have been at low ebb since the EndSARS protest, and because most of these criminals are always rescued by the police and set free later at their stations, we have no

other option than to send them to God through mob action."

The state's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Odiko Macdon, while speaking on the incident on Thursday, warned against jungle justice, just as he pointed out that "such decision has no place in our laws.