

# Ritualist beheads neighbour's four-year-old daughter

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**A** 25-year-old ritual killer, Owolabi Jimoh, was on Thursday arrested for allegedly beheading a four-year-old daughter of his neighbour, Timileyin Abiona, at Idofoyi area, Ayetoro, headquarters of the Yewa North Local Government of Ogun State.

The Commissioner, Ogun State Police Command, Mr. Joseph Apapa, who paraded the suspect at the state police headquarters, Eleweran, Abeokuta, said Jimoh and one Hakeem Ogunleye committed the offence on Wednesday.

Apapa, who said Hakeem was still at large, also paraded a herbalist, Matthew Ogunleye, whom he alleged

asked the suspects to bring the head for money ritual.

However, in an interview with journalists at Eleweran, the herbalist said he was innocent of the crime.

But Jimoh, who was paraded with the decomposing head, confessed that he and Hakeem committed the crime.

He said, "Hakeem said if we could get a human head and take it to the *babalawo*, we will become instant millionaires."

The suspect stated that he and Hakeem lured the girl by sending her to buy bread.

"She was playing with her colleagues when Hakeem gave her money to buy bread at 2pm yesterday (Wednesday). She came back with the bread. Her colleagues also

accompanied her to the bread seller," Jimoh said.

According to him, while other children were sent back, the girl was taken into a room in the house where he lived.

The suspect added, "I strangled her while Hakeem held her hands and legs. After killing her, we put the corpse into a sack and called an unsuspecting commercial motor cyclist that took us to Odorori, on the outskirts of Ayetoro.

"At Odorori, I held the legs and hands of the girl, while Hakeem was cutting the head with a cutlass. We were taking the head to the herbalist when we were arrested."

But in an interview with journalists, the herbalist denied involvement in the crime.