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Ritual killers, kidnappers on the prowl in Ibadan — Police

By Sunday Aborisade, Ibadan

Published: Tuesday, 7 Apr 2009

The Oyo State Police Command on Monday raised the alarm over the influx of some strangers suspected to be ritual killers into Ibadan and other cities in the state.



Governor Alao Akala

A statement by the Public Relations Officer in charge of the command, Miss Olabisi Okuwobi, explained that syndicates of fraudsters who paraded themselves as hired assassins were also on the prowl in the state.

Okuwobi, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, said the kidnappers and ritual killers had started going about major streets in Ibadan and other towns in the state requesting for where they could buy human parts.

She explained that corpses of children and adults who had fallen victim to the devilish activities of kidnappers had been recovered by the police in many parts of the city.

Her statement reads in part, "The Oyo State Police Command wishes to alert members of the public of the activities and presence of kidnappers and ritualists in Oyo State.

"On April 3, 2009, the corpses of two children both aged four, were found with their eyes plucked at Sanyo area of Ibadan.

"Equally, members of the public raised the alarm that suspected kidnappers were sighted at Felele area also in Ibadan while information from Jobele area of the city indicated that some ritualists requested for where they could buy human heads."

Okuwobi said the new Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr. Baba Bolanta, had advised parents and guardians as well as managements of educational institutions in the state to keep watch over the children in their care.

She also called on both the parents and their children to be more vigilant and security conscious as the evil men could disguise in many forms.

The PPRO listed in the statement, mobile telephone numbers which some fraudsters who paraded themselves as hired assassins were using to defraud unsuspecting members of the public.

She gave the numbers as: 07062651309, 08067319425, 08027398191 and 009447045753234.

Meanwhile, armed robbers are back on the Onitsha-Enugu expressway, with two separate attacks reported in the last 12 hours, the News Agency of Nigeria has reported.

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The attacks occurred within 12 hours on Sunday night.

Eye witnesses told NAN that the two incidents took place at Umunya, where the robbers numbering about six, capitalised on a bad portion of the road to block vehicles heading for Onitsha from Awka.

The robbers, who wore fake police uniforms, forced passengers off the buses and compelled them to part with their valuables such as telephone handsets, money, jewellery as well as bags.

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