

Two women hacked to death in Ilorin

Success Nwogu, Ilorin

Miss Rafatu Bola Abdulrahim, was said to have been in high spirits on Tuesday November 22, 2011. It was less than one month to her wedding. And just as she looked forward to the event and a certain transition from spinsterhood to married life, little did she know that danger lurked around the corner.

The 23 year-old nurse was hacked to death by suspected gangsters, who were believed to be behind the wave of attacks on innocent residents of Ilorin, Kwara State, in recent time.

On that day, Abdulrahim had closed from work and was heading towards her residence at No. 17, Akure street in the Adewole area, when she was attacked by her assailants.

The unknown attackers were said to have inflicted sever machete cuts on her body and she bled to death.

Abdulrahim's sudden and gruesome death has since plunged members of her family and her fiancé into grief.

A close friend of the deceased's father, simply known as Alhaji Shafi, told *CRIME DIGEST* that Rafatu's mutilated corpse was found very close to her residence some hours after she was murdered.

Shafi said, "She went to work at about 1:00pm. She was on the afternoon shift and was expected back home by 7:30pm. When she had not returned by 8:30pm, we started looking for her. We later found her body with machete cuts on the head, lying on the ground very close to her residence."

Abdulrahim's murder was the second incident to have occurred in Ilorin in less than two weeks.



•The suspect cultists

Last week, a female photographer named Bidemi Bamidele, who worked with an environmental agency in the state capital, also fell victim to the mysterious killers.

Bamidele's death was similar to that of Abdulrahim. Her severely lacerated corpse was found near a popular religious building at Sabo-Oke area, Ilorin.

The deceased, who was survived by her aged mother and a five-year old child, was said to have been attacked at dawn.

A relation of Bamidele, Mr. Afolayan Francis, told *CRIME DIGEST* that she might have been murdered by suspected ritual killers.

Francis appealed to the Kwara State government and security agencies in the state, to urgently apprehend the gangsters and ensure security of lives and property in Ilorin.

Meanwhile, opinions appear to be divided over the real motives on the incessant attacks on residents of Ilorin by unknown killers.

While many residents said that the attackers, who allegedly drained the blood of their victims with rags, were ritual killers; the police in Ilorin said the attacks had no ritual or political connotation.

But, a highly placed security officer in the state hinted that the security agencies, including the vigilance groups and traditional institutions, had embarked on adequate measures to stop the attacks.

As part of the measures, the police intend to enforce the state's edict banning the use of motorcycles from 9 pm to 6 am in Ilorin.

Reacting to public outcry against the killings, the Kwara State Police Commissioner, Mr. Peter Gana urged the residents not to panic, adding that the Command was doing everything humanly possible to contain the situation.

Gana said, "We have intensified patrols, engaged more of stop and search, at strategic locations in

town. We have increased surveillance and we have extended our network and general intelligence gathering on those behind the crimes.

"Some people who go out at night will feel the presence of the police. All vehicles, even pedestrians, are even searched in the state capital.

"We are also enforcing the time limit for operators of commercial motorcycles in the town. We have been seizing motorcycles found outside the town.

"We have reached out to all the stakeholders and they are going to partake in activities henceforth to make sure that we stopped this heinous crime and bring the perpetrator to justice.

"We have reached out to traditional institutions and we are collaborating with all other agencies to provide adequate security for Kwara State residents.

"It is not like the state has become too insecure but with all the cases that have happened, we are totally committed to making sure that sanity is restored and the state is safe for every body."

In another development, four men alleged to be members of a secret cult, believed to be involved in the attacks on residents of Ilorin, were apprehended by the police.

Reliable sources said the men, names withheld were arrested as they held a meeting at a shrine located in a bush at Gaa-Odota area of the city.


Sources said, the police had raided the shrine following a tip-off from anonymous sources. Two of the alleged cultists fled the shrine before they could be arrested.

Items recovered from the shrine include cutlasses, hoes, assorted charms, snail, iron rod, and black pots among others."

The police in Kwara appealed to the public to assist the state command with useful information that could lead to the arrests of those behind the attack.

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