

news

**Suspected
ritualists kill
four motorcyclists****Umar Muhammed,
Lafia**

CORPSES of four commercial motorcyclists have been found in an uncompleted building near the El-Kabir Housing Estate in Keffi, Nasarawa State.

It was learnt that the corpses were without eyes and private parts.

Investigations by *The PUNCH* in Lafia on Tuesday revealed that the motorcyclists were stopped by the suspected ritualists, who pretended to be labourers.

It was gathered that the suspects asked the riders to take them to somewhere along Keffi/Nasarawa Road.

Some of the residents of the area, who pleaded anonymity, told our correspondent that they saw some people standing along the road holding shovels, cutlasses and measuring tapes.

They said that they later heard gunshots but could not go near the scene because they were unarmed.

One of them said the suspected ritualists killed and dumped the bodies of the motorcyclists in the uncompleted building for more than seven days.

The residents and passers-by, who perceived a strange odour, were said to have raised the alarm.

Policemen, who came to the scene, took the corpses away and deposited them at the Federal Medical Centre, Keffi.

Another resident said, "We perceived an odour and decided to move close to where it emanated from."

"When we got there, we couldn't believe what we saw. We quickly raised the alarm. This was how the police and members of the public got to know that some *Okada* riders had been murdered and their corpses left there."

An *Okada* rider, Emmanuel John, told our correspondent that when he heard two gunshots, he fled.

John said, "I managed to escape from the area even when one of the suspects sighted me. I quickly reported the matter to a police station in Keffi; but I did not know what actually happened since then until when I heard that the police found four decomposing bodies of *Okada* riders."

The state's Police Public Relations Officer, Ismaila Numan, said the command received a call at about 11pm on August 10, 2014 that corpses of four motorcyclists were found in an uncompleted building.