

NCH ORIAL

executions do not have children?

But the case of one "Mopol" in Agege, Lagos, is slightly different. Accused of being a notorious robber, a mob was about to set him ablaze when he was rescued by police. Things changed dramatically when he threatened to return and deal with all those who beat him up. This incensed the crowd. They dragged him out of the police vehicle and burnt him alive with used tyres. The same ugly fate befell a notorious thief called "Emma-B" who met his death

in Warri, Delta State in May. He was arrested by vigilantes, beaten and burnt to death. This is horrible.

The list is lengthy, and it is a real cause for action by the police. Take the case of Akinnifesi Olubunmi, who was "tried and convicted" by a mob in Ondo State in February for allegedly being a homosexual. His punishment was instant death by burning. He could not defend himself as is legally proper. Similarly, in June, two men were apprehended in Mushin, Lagos, for alleged armed robbery. They were beaten up and tied to an electric pole. The police saved the day. We have to stop this nasty edge to our collective humanity.

When, in November, a mob lynched a paedophile suspected of raping a four-year-old girl to death in Reyes, Bolivia, the police tracked down some of the culprits by questioning locals and examining social media videos. The police here should do the same, by employing forensics to identify those culpable in the Orile Iganmu video. A swift trial is likely to be salutary to bloodthirsty mobs to kill no more.