

# Suspected ritual killers murder farmer in Ogun, flee with head

Alexander Okere

**T**ragedy struck in the Ogere Remo area of Ogun State when some assailants, suspected to be ritual killers, hacked a 41-year-old farmer, one Fidelis Ikpechi, to death.

Saturday PUNCH learnt that the suspects also made away with the victim's head and some parts of his intestines, after killing him on his cassava farm. It was learnt that Ikpechi, who hailed from the Obi Local Government Area of Benue State, was on his farm around 4pm on Thursday when the incident happened.

His body was said to have been found in a sack on the street on Friday morning.

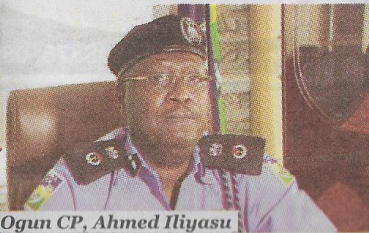
The elder brother of the deceased, Mr Adilke Sunday, said Ikpechi had relocated to Ogere Remo in search of greener pastures about seven years ago.

"I brought him (Ikpechi) to Ogere from Abeokuta about seven years ago. I felt the farming he was doing there (Abeokuta) was too stressful and I wanted to get him a job. When he got to Ogere, he worked for about two years with a company but he later went back to farming. Maybe he felt the money was not enough," Sunday explained.

The Secretary of Igede community, Mr Michael Ekirigwe, who bemoaned the gruesome killing of the father of three, stated that the incident had instilled fear in members of the community.

Ekirigwe said, "We are saddened by the dastardly killing of one of us. In fact, we are very pained that a man quietly working on his farm not too far away from his house could be brutally killed like an animal.

"What then is the fate of those whose farms are very far from the town? Since this unfortunate incident happened, our people, who are mainly



Ogun CP, Ahmed Iliyasu

farmers as typical of Benue State indigenes, now live in fear.

"Our business is in the bush. We can't go to farms again. We plead with the governor of the state, Senator Ibikunle Amosun, and the police authorities to please come to our aid and ensure that those found complicit in this criminal act are punished according to the dictates of the law."

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Abimbola Oyeyemi, who confirmed the killing, said that the case had been transferred to the homicide unit of the State

Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department.

Oyeyemi, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, said, "Yes, we have the report because the brother of the deceased lodged the complaint at the Ogere Police Station. He said the deceased went to farm and after a day or two, he didn't come back. When they (relatives) went out to look for him, they discovered his dismembered body.

"The police have been on the case since that time. We are still conducting our investigation. By the grace of God, we believe we will get the assailants."

## Fuel tanker explodes in Edo, kills driver, destroys 10 vehicles

Adekunle Peter, Benin

**T**he driver of a fuel tanker lost his life in a fatal auto crash that occurred in the early hours of Friday in Benin, the Edo State capital.

The crash occurred along the Benin-Lagos Expressway, in front of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital.

The truck, fully laden with diesel, allegedly veered off its lane, fell and exploded, while trying to avoid an oncoming vehicle said to be driving against traffic.

It was alleged that the truck also hit a Mercedes Benz Wagon conveying bags of rice from Lagos.

The truck driver, whose identity could not be ascertained, got trapped under the truck and was reportedly burnt beyond recognition. His assistant (popularly called *motor boy*) was said to have escaped.

Also, the Mercedes Benz vehicle conveying the rice got burnt completely, while the driver's whereabouts were unknown.

Efforts by firefighters to put out the wild fire were

complicated by the fuel gushing from the truck.

Fire from the crash affected a nearby car dealer's shop where about eight used imported vehicles were affected.

The fire was eventually brought under control by firefighters from the University of Benin, UBTH and the Nigerian Army.

The Edo State Deputy Governor, Philip Shaibu, who visited the accident scene around 10am, warned motorists against driving against traffic.

He said, "The accident could have been avoided if traffic rules and regulations were obeyed. Drivers should abide by traffic rules to avoid tragedies of this nature."



Scene of explosion

## Motorist kills woman, two kids in Anambra

Tony Okafor, Awka

"A Mercedes 911 tipper with number plate, AWK 59E 7W, while travelling at high speed lost control and