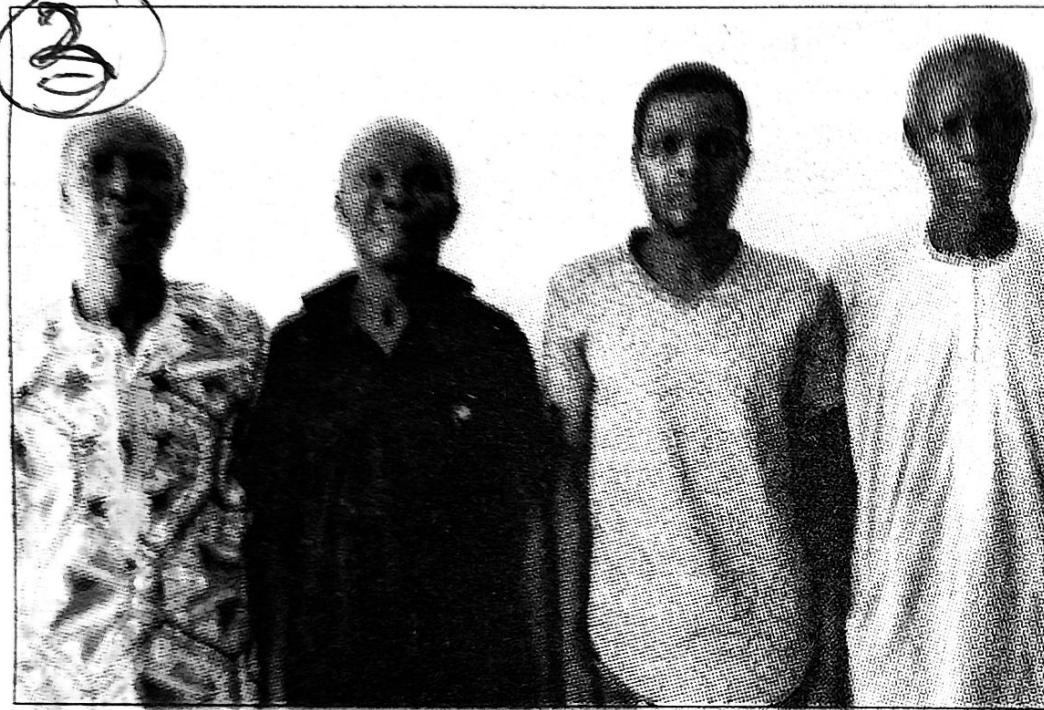


Adamawa man killed, burnt over witchcraft claim by drunk neighbour, four remanded



• The defendants

Hindi Livinus, Yola

FOUR residents of Adamawa State have been remanded over the death of a 57-year-old man, Benson Timothy, who was accused of witchcraft.

The defendants -- Ezekiel

Kumtha, 62; Awo Mesa, 42; Ishaku Sanda, 58; and Oga Dapila, 55 -- were remanded on Tuesday following their arraignment before a Yola Chief Magistrate's Court.

They were arraigned on counts of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide,

offences punishable under sections 60 and 192 of the Adamawa State Penal Code Law 2018.

The police prosecutor, Zakka Musa, who gave details of the case, said the four men allegedly killed the victim and burnt his corpse.

He also informed the court that the incident occurred on May 15, 2022, at Dumna Dutse in the Guyuk Local Government Area of the state.

He said, "The defendants criminally conspired and attacked the deceased, Benson Timothy, on May 15, 2022, at the residence of one of the defendants, Ishaku Sanda."

Our correspondent gathered that the deceased had a misunderstanding with a man at a beer palour.

During the altercation, both men, while under the influence of alcohol, reportedly accused each other of witchcraft.

Benson was said to have

accused his neighbour of killing some of the prominent people in Dumna community, while he was also accused by the other man of terrorising the community with witchcraft and killing little children.

Following the revelation, some residents began to suspect the deceased as being responsible for the death of children in the community, which triggered the attack. However, the defendants at the hearing of the case pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The prosecution asked the court to adjourn the case to enable the police to complete investigation, duplicate the case file and send same to the Directorate of Public Prosecutions for legal advice.

The presiding judge, Abdullahi Digil, granted the application and adjourned the case till July 2022.

He ordered the remand of the defendants in the Yola Custodial Centre.