

The Callous World Of Ritualists

As government, along with security agencies tries to tackle crimes such as robbery, rape and others, it must also deliberately intensify efforts to tackle the rising rate of kidnapping for ritual purposes in the society.

What would people not do to get rich? Men capture children, women and men and use them for potions believed to have the potency of bringing quick wealth. And they have various strategies.

Sometimes, kidnappers pretend to be regular commuter bus operators and unsuspecting citizens board the buses are whisked to unknown destinations, where only few may be lucky to escape death from the callous hands of the murderous ritualists.

At other times, these men of the underworld or their accomplices roam graveyards to exhume bodies of dead people with the belief that their bones can be trans-



•A suspected ritualist caught with two human skulls.



•Akpoyibo, Lagos Police boss.

formed into money-spinning charms. Hence, they refuse to allow the dead to rest in peace.

Fatsuma Hassan, explained how she escaped

from the hands of ritualists. The mother of a 10-month old baby, said she was abducted by a commercial motorcyclist.

"As I was about to board the bike, he removed N500 note, requesting for change and immediately I set my eyes on the note, I went off my senses. The next thing that I knew that happened was that I saw myself in front of a house with a black gate and was forced to enter it," she said.

According to Fatsuma's narration, while she was in the house, she was undressed by force and the hair at her armpits, genital area and head were completely shaved.

However, according to the victim, "my baby boy, who was dropped on the floor, became restless, crawling from one end of the house to the other, crying ceaselessly. At a point, he was crawling towards two containers of liquid substance, an action that infuriated a woman in the house, who then ordered that my son be restrained.

"The woman, who from all indications, was one of the leaders in the house, queried the motorcyclist for bringing her a nursing mother."

The enraged woman then ordered that Fatsuma and her son be released and another motorcyclist was ordered to take her away from the place.

Fatsuma further revealed that in the ritualists' den were other victims, two girls and a woman. "I suspect the girls

were caught while hawking fried yam and egg because I saw their wares in the house," she noted.

A man, Kamaru Yusuf and two others decapitated an eight-year old girl for money-making ritual. The kid victim, Omobola Moses, was a niece of Yusuf. It was he who lured the unsuspecting girl to her untimely death.

One of his accomplices was a 52-year old herbalist, Saliu Oyewole. It was learnt that Yusuf's desire to become rich made him consult Oyewole who told him he must get a fresh human head.

In a bid to meet the request, Yusuf lured Omobola from her parents and took her into the bush where he strangled and severed her head from the rest of her body, which he took to the herbalist who rejected and told him what he wanted was a dry head.

The quest to conceal the head compelled them to dump it in a forest, but was discovered by detectives.

Recently, a murder suspect, Olayiwola Jimoh, was arraigned before an Ebute Meta Chief Magistrate's Court alongside four other persons namely Nasiru Tajudeen, Olugboyi Abiodun, Selimotu Daudu and Adeleke Onayinka, for allegedly killing Azeez Shonaga and attempted to kill five other persons.

Detectives from Zorfe 2, Lagos Police Command, Onikan, raided Jimoh's house at Igboeletu, Ikorodu and discovered human

parts, blood, explosives, a coffin and guns.

In yet another incident, a suspected human parts dealer was arrested with nine human skulls near Atan Cemetery, Sabo, Yaba. The suspect, Tunde Adenuga, was arrested at about 3 a.m., by cops from the Sabo Police Division, who had been on his trail for two weeks before he was arrested.

Adenuga was nabbed together with Sule Ogunyemi, the alleged intermediary between him and the receiver.

While being paraded at the Police Headquarters, Adenuga confessed that he had been involved in the nefarious act for more than a year. He also said that he visited the cemetery about four times in a week.

Adenuga told reporters who were at the Police Headquarters when he was paraded, that he had been a grave digger at the cemetery for over 10 years before he was dismissed for incompetence. He further confessed that he accepted Ogunyemi's offer to buy the human skulls from him as he needed money to get accommodation.

According to him, "I was a grave digger in the cemetery and so I know my way inside the place. In the cemetery, there are two sections. In one of the sections, people are buried temporarily in shallow graves and after a period of time, the grave will sink, revealing the corpse. It is those ones that I pick their parts to sell. I don't dig out corpses from their graves."

The passion for money could even make some husbands to desire to use their

wives for ritual purposes.

Mufutai Yahaya, a man of no definite address, was alleged to have attempted to use his wife, Seki, for ritual and the move led to the woman becoming temporarily insane.

According to Seki, her husband had sex with her 15 days after she gave birth to a baby and used a white handkerchief to collect semen from her genital area.

"On that fateful Sunday that my husband had sex with me, he used a white handkerchief to rub my private part and vowed to kill me if I told anybody. Suddenly, I started behaving abnormally," Seki had alleged.

Although, Mufutai denied the allegation, the traditional healer, Chief Adelani Onifade, to whom she was taken for healing, said there was every reason to believe that the husband was responsible for the wife's illness.

"The lady was so abnormal when they brought her to me. At a point, she was totally out of control. Now, she is getting better, but she is not healed yet. Her private part was so bloated. This makes me believe that the husband was responsible. If he did not confess and disclose where he kept the handkerchief, the lady would die," said Chief Onifade.

Rate of ritual killings is increasing in our society by the day and the authorities must ensure that those who engage in it are apprehended.

Lagos Commissioner Bags Award

The Ahmadiyya College Old Students Association (ACAOSA), United States of America chapter, has honoured one of its distinguished members, Alhaji Babatunde Balogun, the Lagos State Commissioner for Home Affairs and Culture. The award was given in recognition of his career achievement and success in public service.

Representative of the president of the USA chapter of the association, Mr. Omolola Sayar, who presented the award, was full of encomiums for the commissioner, saying that he was a giver of regular support and encouragement in numerous ways to his *Alma Mater*.

Alhaji Balogun, in his response, expressed gratitude to the association for the award, while affirming that the school shaped his character and prepared him for the current public assignment.

He also stated that the school had produced career men and women both in public and private sectors, adding that two of the *alumni* of repute produced by the school are the Clerk of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mr. Taiwo Olatunji and the Lagos State Head of Service, Alhaji Yakub Abiodun Balogun.



PUBLIC NOTICE

MAFOLUKU CENTRAL MOSQUE, MAFOLUKU

This is to inform the general public that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matter Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- (1). Alhaji Chief Musafau Penpe Aregbe
- (2). Alhaji Chief Jimoh -Ore-Momoh
- (3). Alhaji Chief Abdul Ganiu Ishola
- (4). Alhaji Chief Saffaru Olagoroye
- (5). Alhaji Chief Ibraheem Adebisi Adewale
- (6). Alhaji Chief Husaini Kehinde Olorunjoje
- (7). Hon. Alhaji Chief Tajudeen Adisa Oladega
- (8). Alhaji Chief Jamu Aregbe

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

- (1). To promote, foster and encourage worship.
- (2). To promote the Education, moral, social and cultural advancement of the Muslim community.
- (3). To promote Islamic solidarity among Muslims in Mafoluku town.
- (4). To work with other Muslim bodies for the progress of Islam.

Any objection(s) to the registration of the above association should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse zone 5, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **ABDULBAKI A. ABDULBAKI ESQ.**
8, Adebare Street, Ogudu, Lagos.
08038329860

PUBLIC NOTICE

EMAB PLAZA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, LAGOS

The general public is hereby notified that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matter Act No 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1). Alhaji Kabiru Sani Kaita | (2) Eze Matthew Chukwuema |
| (3). Emerone D. Sunday | (4) Ugwu Anselm Onuabuchi |
| (5). Anyaoha Francis Kenechukwu | (6) Mrs. Charity Ofor |
| (7). Sir Ernest Eriobu | (8) Mr. Umeh Vincent |
| (9). Ndubuisi Umembamalu | (10) Christopher Eze |
| (11). Okoye Uchenna | |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

- (1). To bring together all persons trading or carrying out legitimate business in the plaza for the purpose of forging a common front for the pursuit of their trading and to fully develop their potential as professionals in the business world, through creating opportunities for exposure and interaction, team work and learning apt business/trade skills.
- (2). To foster love and understanding among its members for the purpose of achieving conducive atmosphere for trading.
- (3). To assist its members when and where necessary.
- (4). To ensure security of live and properties of members, using the approved avenue as guaranteed by Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (5). To maintain discipline, honesty and transparency amongst its members and their dealings with prospective customers.

Any objection(s) to the registration of the above association should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse zone 5, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **Momodou Aliu (Legal Practitioner)**