

of the slain youths were said to be breadwinners of their families.

Man arrested over ritual murder of wife

By JEFF AMECHI AGBODO, Abakaliki

A middle-aged man, Okorie (surname withheld) of Onicha Igboeze in Onicha Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, has allegedly killed his wife, Ifeoma. The suspect cut off the victim's head and removed her private part for alleged ritual.

The 26-year-old woman was murdered on July 9, 2013. The police recovered her decomposing body three days later in the bush, behind the couple's compound.

The state police command's spokesman, Mr. Sylvester Igbo, a Deputy Superintendent, also told newsmen yesterday that Okorie, after committing the crime, fled to Lagos where he was arrested alongside four other suspects.

According to DSP Igbo, "on July 9, 2013, a case of murder was reported to the police at Onicha Igboeze. It was alleged that one Ifeoma, aged 26, a wife to one Okorie, was murdered and dumped in the bush behind the husband's compound, the decomposing body was recovered on July 12 and deposited at the Federal Medical Centre, Abakaliki.

"But during investigation, some arrests were made. Information was given that the husband was seen with the wife on Sunday of that week with a commercial motorcycle who conveyed them to their compound and when they disembarked, they headed towards the bush behind their compound, it was there, people confirmed that the husband killed his wife.

"When the corpse was examined, it was discovered that the neck of the woman was chopped off and her vagina was missing. When the incident happened initially, her corpse was not seen but the information given to the police led to its discovery in the bush.

"The suspect (husband) fled to Lagos, but his kinsmen reported him to the police which led to his arrest. They also contacted Ebonyi State police. The deceased has 18-month-old daughter. Four suspects have been arrested while investigation continues," the PPRO stated.

Similarly, DSP Igbo said that on July 13, 2013, one Chukwuma Akputa of Ogbeba village in Abakaliki was murdered after he visited his brother over a land dispute.

Igbo said that the widow, Josephine, reported the matter to the police that her husband never returned home after he visited his brother which led to the arrest of one Fidelis, who confessed to the crime.