

CRIMEwatch

BY CHRISTOPHER OJI

With sad memories of the gruesome murder of four students in Alu community, Rivers State in 2012, lingering, and the murder of two ladies in Ejigbo area of Lagos State, last year, through jungle justice, a similar incidence may have occurred in Imo State, unnoticed.

From recorded video clips of an alleged extra-judicial trial, a 76-year old man, Reginus Agim and his 32-year old son, were tried and eventually executed by stoning in Umuodu Umukobia, Ehime Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State for allegedly being in possession of dry human skulls. According to Crime Watch findings, the horrific incident took place sometimes in November last year, unreported.

The trial and execution of the father and son were supervised by a retired police officer who played the role of the accuser and judge at the same time.

However, unknown to the suspected kangaroo jurists, a Nigerian, based in America visited the village at the time of the trial and recorded the event on his smartphone. He later transferred the pictures into video Compact Disc (VCD).

Unable to sleep because of the nightmare he was having because of the brutal killing, Bright Oguike, through this medium wants the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Mohammed Abubakar and the Director General, State Security Service (SSS), to look into the matter and ensure that justice is done.

Oguike told Crime Watch that both victims were taken to the market square and burnt to death. Painting a gory picture of how father and son were killed, the Engineer said he was forced to record the dastard killing.

He said on the day, he visited his friend in Umuodu Umukobia community, and was told that his friend (names withheld) was in a meeting at the town hall.

He said when he inquired more about the meeting, he was told that a fresh human skull was discovered in a family house, and he became curious and proceeded to the town hall.

At the town hall, he was not allowed to enter but he was able to video the proceedings. "An old man and his son were brought into the midst of the crowd with a dry skull. They were accused of killing an unknown person in the community. But what moved me was when the old man asked them to mention the name of the person that was killed.

The old man, who was weeping profusely, challenged those questioning him whether he had not reported the questionable character of his son to the village heads, youth leader and even the king."



Victims of jungle justice

Jungle justice

- Septuagenarian, son, executed in Imo
- Concerned citizens want police, DSS intervention

The old man was quoted as saying: "When my son returned from Aba after five years, I noticed that he was practicing spiritualism and his character was questionable, I raised the alarm and reported to the people. No one came to my rescue. The boy kept tormenting me.

"Well, on the day youths discovered a human skull in his room, he told you people that I was not aware that he kept a human skull in his custody which he said he bought from Aba."

The old man continued: "God will bear me witness that I had not set my eyes on the skull until it was discovered by the vigilance group. I am telling you the truth but if I had not report his behavioural changes to the king, community heads and the vigilance group, I think I would be guilty, I reported to you people."

Oguike revealed that his son, during interrogation told the crowd: "I bought the skull from Aba where I went to learn mysticism. I did not kill anyone. My father did

not know anything about it so, let me pay for my sin."

Oguike said he got the shocker of his life when the head of the vigilance group, a retired police officer stood up and passed a death sentence on the father and son. The retired police officer said in the video clip, "two of you must die. Our law says, if you kill anyone, you too must die. So take them to the market square and burn them."

Oguike said at that time, he tried to convince the retired police officer that the suspect should be handed over to the police. "But the irate youths, under the command of the retired officer seized the two, beat them to a pulp and conveyed them in a truck to the market square.

Drug trafficker has 20 years jail term