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Again, ritualists' den uncovered in Osun

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BY BAMIGBOLA GBOLAGUNTE, OSOGBO ON JULY 23, 2014

NATIONAL

The people of Iwaro, near Ipetumodu in Ife North Local Government Area of Osun State on Monday evening discovered a shrine in the outskirts of the town where many fetish objects were found.

Although human parts were speculated to have been found in the shrine, no part of human body was seen around the area when Daily Sun visited the shrine yesterday.

The shrine, located inside a thick forest close to the Ife/Ibadan Expressway, was said to be traced to a young man who had been arrested by police from Ipetumodu and taken to the Criminal Investigations Department of the state Police Command in Osogbo, the state capital.

It was gathered that the ritualists, who relocated to Iwaro from Ibadan in April, had built a house in the forest where they attended to their patrons.

A resident of the area told Daily Sun that the operators of the shrine were four in number and often attended to their patrons at night.

When Daily Sun visited the shrine yesterday, white cows, candles, burnt sacrifices, food items and other fetish materials were seen at the spot.

However, a source hinted that decomposed human bodies were seen inside the shrine when the police stormed the place on Monday, saying the bodies were burnt when the evil activities at the forest became known to the public.

It was observed at the shrine that various items were burnt recently as the debris of the burnt materials was still visible around the shrine.

A resident of the area, who took Daily Sun round the shrine and the nearby village where the ritualists perpetrated their evil acts, explained that two of the ritualists escaped, while two were arrested by the police.

A source said: "We have always noticed strange movements around this village at night, but nobody knew a house could be built inside this thick forest. But expensive cars are always noticed around here, especially at night. This is so strange to us and that made us to trace where the cars are coming from and we later discovered that there was a shrine here."

Also, another resident of the village said some village heads were approached when the ritualists

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wanted to buy the parcel of land used for the shrine.

The source said the ritualists pretended to be pastors and lied to the village heads that the place would be used for special prayers, adding that it was not known to residents of the village that they had turned the place to a shrine.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mrs Folashade Odoro, promised to confirm the matter, saying the police would ensure that proper investigations were done.

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