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By NGOZI NWUJARE

The Cross River State Police Command has arrested a suspected cultist, one Ita for allegedly killing a 14-year-old David Okon for refusing to join the association. Ita had attempted to lure the innocent school boy into the 'Skylo' cult group at T junction, Ikot Ekpo, 8 Miles Calabar.

However, Okon resisted him, an action which led to his killing.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Henry Fadairo, who spoke to Crime Watch Today on the incident, described it as terrible. He said the "Skylo" cult group had put pressure on the deceased for several months to join them but he refused. Ita and his cultist group on February 4, 2015 allegedly chased the deceased on that night and stabbed him to death.

He said members of another cult group identified as "Columbo boys," have been arrested by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). Apart from being members of a cult group, they were into armed robbery. He noted that the group had been terrorizing the Calabar metropolis for long.

Fadairo noted that members of "Columbo boys" were involved in killing and attempting to initiate innocent school children into their association. They have forced some peer groups into cultism before they were rounded up by SARS in Calabar.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police, State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Mr. Ganiyu Salami, said "Skylo" and "Columbo boys" were strong cultist groups terrorizing residents of Calabar before they were unmasked.

According to him, other suspected cultists in custody include, Okon, 15-years old, Effiong, 18-years Etim, 18-years and Ekpo 15-years old.

Ita spoke to Crime Watch Today: "I am a member of "Skylo" group. We used to terrorize Calabar residents. "When Okon was called to join the "Skylo" group, we started putting pressure on him to join. When he was adamant by refusing to join us, we have to murder him by stabbing him at the back," he confessed.

Another suspect, Okon, said, "We are members of "Columbo boys." Apart from cultism, we robbed innocent people. We used to initiate our peer group to join our members. We have robbed several and initiated people as members.

CP Fadairo said the suspects would soon be charged to court.

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