

# JUNGLE JUSTICE: DELTA POLICE BOSS READS RIOT ACT, ORDERS ARREST OF KILLERS OF SUSPECTED RITUALIST

From Ben Dunno, Warri

**THE** Delta State Police Commissioner, Muhammad Mustafa, has ordered the arrest of identified members of the public who participated in a mob attack that led to the setting ablaze of a woman suspected to be a ritualist in Eket community, Udu Local Government Area of the state.

The new police boss who read the riot act to the civil populace in the state on the consequences of taking laws into their hands especially when suspected criminals are being arrested in their community said he would not condone such lawlessness.

He noted that the right thing to do in any circumstance when a suspect was arrested by any group of persons was to hand over such criminals to the nearest police station so that the police could carry out further investigations that could lead to more discovery and arrest.

Mustafa said, "I've just been briefed about what happened in Eket, Udu Local Government Area last weekend where a woman was burnt to death by a mob and I've consequently ordered the DPO in charge of that area to ensure that all people identified to have been involved in such gruesome act are brought to justice."

"I won't tolerate such act of lawlessness in my time as police commissioner here. Such an act is not only barbaric, but it also negates the principle of our justice system as well as constitutional provision on how a suspected criminal should be handled in a civil society no matter the nature of crime committed."

"The truth is that when suspects are burnt to death everything they knew concerning the crime dies with them and this is not in the best interest of our justice system. Hand them over to the police to conclude investigations and prosecute them accordingly," he said.

A mob in Eket community in Udu local government area of Delta State, had penultimate weekend set a suspected ritualist who allegedly dealt in human parts ablaze.

Eyewitness' account revealed that the suspect, a lady, who pretended to be mentally unstable, was set ablaze after residents in the area discovered fresh human parts in her makeshift hut.

Eyewitnesses said they believed that the lady was member of a syndicate, which specialized in killing and selling human parts.

One of the eyewitnesses who spoke to our correspondent under anonymity said residents who noticed the suspicious behaviour of the lunatic, took a bold step to keenly look into her hut and raised the alarm.

The woman who many described as beautiful was not spared by the mob that settled her case with jungle justice before police arrived at the scene of incident.

Some residents said they had to take the law into their own hands to serve as deterrent to others who might be in the same business with her.

"We have to take the laws into our own hands because similar incidents like this which were reported to the police in the past did not yield any fruit. At the end of the day the suspects are always released after spending a few nights in the police cell. So this time around we decided not to allow this one go the same way," they said.