

Suspected ritualist beheads 3, chops off 5 persons' hands in Imo

From **George Onyejiuwa, Owerri**

Palpable fear and anxiety have gripped the residents of Ahaba Orodo community of Mbaitoli council of Imo State, as a man suspected to be a ritualists has allegedly beheaded three persons and disappeared with their heads.

The yet-to-be identified assailant, who it was learnt, wields a machete had attacked the people on Wednesday which was Nkwo Orodo, and in the process chopped off the hands of about persons while trying to defend themselves.

It was learnt that the youths of the community gave him a hot chase but he ran into the evil forest and since not been

seen.

It was also gathered that he was suspected to have been responsible for the beheading of three other persons.

According to a community source who wished to remain anonymous, "the incident happened on Nkwo Orodo market day four days ago (Wednesday); the man suddenly attacked people who were selling their wares in the market and in the process five persons had their hands nearly severed as they were trying to protect themselves from his attack. But when the youths started chasing he ran into the evil forest and disappeared. As I speak, we are still looking for him after that ugly incident."