

City Briefs

Missing motorcyclist found dead in Edo community

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Fear has gripped residents of Egor Local Government Area of Edo State following the discovery of body of a commercial motorcyclist, otherwise known as Okada rider, in the area.

The development yesterday forced commercial motorcyclists operating in the local government and youths to protest what they described as the presence of ritual den at a forest in the boundary between Ogheghe and Egbaen villages.

Witnesses said the bush was filled with bodies and clothes as well as shoes belonging to children, women and men.

The protesters barricaded the road after the body of their colleague was discovered inside the bush.

It was learnt that the riders had on several times raised the alarm over disappearance of their members in the area.

Sources said a man suspected to have hired the victim two days earlier was caught trying to lure another rider.

Motorcyclists trailed the suspect and caught up with him when he attempted to divert into the bush. The riders and youths in the community accosted the suspect and beat him to pulp.

Sources alleged that the man confessed that he

was involved in the killing of the victim.

The suspect was said to have taken the youth and riders to a nearby bush where he dumped the body and named other accomplices, including a traditional birth attendant who used to buy the body parts of victims within the area.

Policemen deployed to the area prevented the mob from lynching the suspect.

A witness, Felix Okhuogha, said he had earlier rescued a man tied down inside the bush.

Okhuogha added that he saw two fresh bodies, decomposing ones and human skeletons while he joined a search team into the forest.

He said: "I was in my store one day when somebody came to tell me that he saw a man tied down in the bush. We went there and saw the man who I later discovered to be a brother to my co-landlord. I asked him what happened, he said a man tied him at gunpoint and took his motorcycle away. I brought him to the road and allowed him to explain to people.

"We saw dead bodies inside the bush. It was terrible. The whole place was smelling. The police should do something about it."

The state Commissioner of Police, Johnson Babatunde Kokumo, said the suspect was arrested in connection to murder and not ritual killing.

He noted that the suspect would have been lynched had the police not acted promptly.