

Mutilated body dumped on Abia road

Emmanuel Ifeanyi
ABA

Fear has gripped residents of Aba, Abia State over the discovery of the mutilated body of a yet-to-be-identified young man by the roadside at Bata Junction in Aba.

The victim, whose identity is yet to be known and who should be in his late 20s or early 30s, had his intestines chartered and dumped on the road side.

It was learnt that some important parts of his body like private parts and heart were also removed by his killers, in a manner that most residents said was akin to ritual killing.

The residents said the incident could have occurred in the late hours of Tuesday or in the wee hours of yesterday. The body was still fresh when our correspondent went to the scene yesterday morning.

The residents said the killing and mutilation of the body had caused panic especially among

those of them residing around the crime-prone Ogbor-Hill axis that links the Bata Junction to Aba main town.

"The way the body was dumped with his private parts and heart cut off sends message that ritual killers are in town. We are in serious trouble if ritual killers are in this town.

"Everybody is afraid of the problems we have been having with tricycle robbers. Now that they have started killing and cutting out human parts,

we are in deeper trouble," one of the residents said.

A tricycle rider, Emeka Anyawu, said "the issue looks more like money ritual because the place they dumped his body is strategic in this town.

"Bata Junction is like a confluence in Aba because almost everyone entering the main town must pass through here. Honestly, Aba is sinking, security wise."

Meanwhile, the victim's body was still on the roadside at press time although the fact that the matter was reported to both the police and the environmental health department of the local government in charge.

It was learnt that the matter was reported to the Ezilama Police Division.

Residents also said that officials of the Aba South Local Government Area Environmental Health Department, which has jurisdiction over the area, have been invited to evacuate of the body.

Head of Department of Environmental Health in Aba Local Government Area, Mrs.

Chinyere Nwigwe, said she had gone to inspect the body herself.

According to her, the department needs police approval before the body could be evacuated.

Nwigwe, however, said that if by Thursday no member of the family of the victim showed up, the environmental health officials would evacuate it.

She said: "It's under our jurisdiction. We are aware of it. I've been there to observe the place and the deceased is not even a mad person.

"I don't know what really happened there. It police will carry out their investigation. We also expect that through media, the family members might be reached to come.

"If it is there till tomorrow morning (today), we will handle it. Nobody has identified the corpse for now. We cannot allow it to be a public nuisance. We cannot allow it to decompose there. We'll handle it by tomorrow if nobody comes in for it today"

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Geoffrey Ogbonna, said he was not aware of the incident.



The victim