

Youths Kill 2 Women over Witchcraft

Two women have allegedly been killed by angry youths in Warri, after they were reportedly accused of causing the death of a two-year old girl through witchcraft. As a result of the incident, which occurred at Ogebe-Ijoh community, police from 'A' Division, Warri, have arrested five persons, including father of the deceased.

A large and wild mob of angry youths stormed homes of the two women, dragged them out and later beat them to death. One of the women, who eked out a living from fishing, reportedly bled to death, after being stabbed in the breast, while the second was burnt alive.

The attack and killing allegedly followed an alarm raised by father of the dead child that witches killed his daughter, with accusing finger subsequently pointed at the victims. The girl reportedly died during a brief illness, which led the father to cry foul and subsequently solicited assistance of the community

From Omon-Julius Onabu in Warri

youths. A witch-doctor or "prophetess" had earlier claimed that the suspects were planning to kill the little girl through witchcraft. Many people have

reportedly deserted the sleepy town when law enforcement agents stormed the place, at the behest of an influential politician who is also a relation of one of the women. The remains of the deceased had been deposited at the Central Hospital, Warri mortuary.

Probe Attack on LG Boss, Banire Urges CP

Lagos State Commissioner for Environment, Dr Muiz Banire, has asked the state police commissioner, Mr Mohammed Abubakar, to investigate an alleged assault on Mushin Local Government Chairman, Mr Seye Oladejo, to establish the authenticity of the claim.

Banire, in a letter to the police boss through his counsel, Teju Tijani, requested that apart from unveiling the veracity of the alleged attack, the police should bring the culprits to book if the claim is found to be true and if otherwise, charge Oladejo to court for making false allegation.

The letter reads: "our client has informed us, which information we verily believe, that between December 17 and 18, 2007, Honourable Seye Oladejo, current Carataker Chairman of Mushin Local Government, made statement(s) to members of the public which are highly damaging to the precious reputation of our client.

"In the said statement(s), our client was reliably informed that Oladejo asserted that our client physically assaulted him and personally hired thugs who attacked him and caused grievous bodily harm to his person.

Ituguda of the involvement of some government officials and policemen in robbery activities. He threatened to expose the culprits if nothing was done by the authorities to address the problem.

According to the police command, no fewer than 40 armed robbery suspects were arrested in the state between January and August this year. It said no fewer than 25 robbery incidents were recorded during the same period.

"Our client finds this very disturbing, as this does not possess any iota of truth. More disturbing to our client is the implications raised by the said statement(s) to the effect that our client, who is a solicitor and advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, a distinguished member of the International Bar Association, a holder of a doctorate degree in law and currently the Commissioner for the Environment in Lagos State, is not a person of honourable character, and therefore, unfit to hold any public office or serve in any such capacity."