

of the Command's readiness to make the state a crime free one.

the state their hideouts." - **Sheriff Balogun in Abeokuta**

**Okoya**

## 3 Suspected Ritualists Trapped in Minna

**T**he Niger State Police Command has arrested three persons for allegedly beheading a 10-year-old boy in Amale Village of Kaffi-koro District in Paiko Local Government Area of the state for ritual purpose.

The 10 years-old boy was said to have been lured by one Salleh Ibrahim, who took him on his motorbike from Amale village to meet two of his other accomplices, Usman Sarki and Dantala Doma, where he was killed.

It was gathered that during police interrogation, Usman Sarki confessed that he was contacted to bring a 10- years old boy's head by one Gajere who is now at-large for money making ritual.

The severed head of the boy was discovered with the three men in a sack while they were walking in Kasuwan Gwari in Minna town and when the police asked them what they were carrying, they said nothing until the policemen asked them to open the bag and discovered it was a human head.

It was gathered that upon the discovery of the severed head, the suspects were forced to take the police to a nearby river Erena in Shiroro Local Government Area of the state where the headless body of the boy was buried in a shallow grave.

According to Salleh, he said Usman told him that one Gajere had contacted him to bring a head of a little boy for them to make money from and he resisted but after convincing him he decided to go out in search of a boy.

"It was at this point I found this boy along Amale road and I asked him where he was going, he said he was going to his house; I took him on my bike to Usman Sarki's house before myself and Usman Sarki took him to Dantala Doma's house and Dantala used cutlass to behead him before Usman finally hit him and killed him and his head was removed. Effort to get Gajere who contacted us for the job had not yielded any result".

Confirming the report, the Police Public Relation Officer in the state (PPRO), Mr.

Richard Adamu Oguche, an assistant superintendent of police (ASP) said investigation into the matter has commenced after which the suspects would be arraigned in court of competent jurisdiction for prosecution.

He said the case is sensitive in nature that the police need not to rush over it, because "we want to make a discreet investigation so that we will not rush over it. We want to get to the root of the whole matter so that at the end of it we will take them to court for proper prosecution, like I told you, is a capital offence that need a serious investigation".

He said "the command has directed all police out-posts within Kaffin-koro division and the DPO in Kaffin-koro to reach out to the community leaders in the area to know if there is a reported case of a missing child, up till this moment we have not received any report from these areas".

He then called on parents to always monitor the movement of their children so as not to fall into the hands of ritualists. - **Aisha Wakasso in Minna**