

A GROUP of people suspected to specialize in ritual killings at Umuezike-Aku community in Igbo-Etiti local government area, Enugu state, have allegedly hacked one Daniel Ezeagu to death in the community.

Crime Alert gathered that members of the killer-group that committed the crime, last week, were caught by detectives attached to Aku police station, assisted by members of the neighbourhood watch. The suspects were rounded up while trying to escape from the scene of the crime by security-men on patrol.

Eyewitness account: An eye-witness, Peter Nwaizu, who caught one of the killers while fleeing from the scene shortly after the ritual killing said he was at alert on patrol around 5am when he saw one of his relations, Ugonna Nwazi (a.k.a Group), and he suspected danger after noticing his blood-stained cloth.

According to the witness, he confronted the suspect after raising alarm and insisted that he should explain how he got bloodstains on his dress.

"Shockingly, Ugonna disclosed to me confidentially that they killed one man from Umudiewa Ohemuje village in Aku community. He pleaded with me to cover them so that relations of the victim will not know they killed their kinsman for ritual. I shouted and more people came out including some of his accomplices in the heinous crime. As I was making moves to call my vigilante colleagues to hand him over to the Police, one of the perpetrators of the killing, simply identified as Amadi Jude (a.k.a Onwa), told me in front of everyone that if anything happens



● Late Daniel Ezeagu

Ritualists hack farmer to death in Enugu community

some people were taking the remains of the slain Daniel to deposit at Ohemuje village around 5 a.m. to cover the killing at Umuezike but suddenly dropped the corpse immediately they sighted his motorcycle headlights and took to their heels.

First suspect, Peter Nwaizu arrested

It was learnt that when relations of the deceased Daniel Ezeagu from Ohemuje community heard news of the killing of their kinsman, they made straight to the police who in turn

Community appeals to deceased's kinsmen: Meanwhile, people of Umudiewa Ohemuje community where the suspected killers hail from have appealed to the kinsmen of the slain farmer to sheathe their swords, admitting that their compatriots killed their

kinsman and must be fished out and handed over to the police for prosecution. Speaking through one Mr. Patrick Ugwu, the community also appealed to security agents to stop massive arrests of people in their community, assuring that they are making frantic efforts to fish out the fleeing suspects. In his words, "we are deeply sorry for what happened. It is true that our people killed Daniel Ezeagu and we are promising you people that we must fish them out and hand them over to the police for prosecution. We are begging you people to calm your anger and allow us follow the case to a logical conclusion with the perpetrators being brought to book to face the wrath of the law," Ugwu said.

Wrath of the law

Attempts made to reach the traditional ruler of Ihekwenwu Autonomous Community, HRH, Igwe C.E.O. Okwor and Ihekwenwu Town Union President, Prof. GCE Mbah, where the incident occurred was futile as calls put across to them went unanswered.

Police reacts: However, the Divisional Police Officer (D.P.O) in charge of Igbo-Etiti Police division, Ogbede, Itam John, confirmed the incident and the arrest of some of the suspects. He also urged the public not to panic as the police operatives in the division will definitely catch the fleeing suspect and others connected with the barbaric killing in the area. "We have made some arrests and the people have been moved to State CID, Enugu. Some of them have confessed killing the man in defence claiming he attacked them first while others are still accusing Peter; the first witness, as the person that killed him," the D.P.O said.