

Man arrested for beheading mother in Abia

By Ugochukwu Alaribe

ABA—A middle-aged man, identified as Christopher Nwajei, who beheaded his mother in Umuchagu Osokwa, Osisisoma Ngwa Local Government Area of Abia State, has been arrested by the residents of the community.

Nwajei, who is an apprentice welder, had on March 29, beheaded his mother, Cecilia, while she was preparing dinner at about 7.30p.m., on returning from the farm. The assailant reportedly collected some of her mother's blood and fled the community.

A resident of the community, who did not want her name in print, told *Vanguard* that the suspect was arrested in a bush on the outskirts of the community by a search party before he was handed over to police.

Nwajei, who blamed the devil

for the action, confessed to have beheaded his mother because she told him that he is not a native of the Umuchagu Osokwa village. He denied collecting her blood for rituals.

The state's Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Geoffrey Ogbonna, who confirmed the arrest of the suspect, added that police are currently investigating the incident.

Troops rescue 1,623 from Boko Haram

TROOPS of 3 Battalion, 22 Brigade Nigerian Army on Operation *Lafiya Dole*, assisted by 10 civilian Joint Task Force, JTF, rescued 1,623 residents of Jarawa general area, Kala Balge Local Government Area of Borno State, during an offensive on suspected location of Boko Haram terrorists.

A statement by Brigadier General Sani Usman, Director, Army Public Relations in Abuja, said: "While advancing, the troops came under heavy fire at Jarawa village. The troops responded decisively and went

further to clear Deima, Artano, Saduguma, Duve, Bardo, Kala, Bok, Msherde and Ahirde settlements.

"During the operation, the troops neutralised 21 Boko Haram terrorists and rescued 1,623 residents of Jarawa, who were held captives by the terrorists. They also recovered three AK-47 rifles, 36 grenades, 12 cutlasses and four motorcycles.

"The rescued persons have been escorted to Rann Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, camp."