

valued pipeline belonging by assailants, before his palace was said: "The attack is as a result with me as the right person representing the Kingdom." describing the fire incident as unfortunate.

# How 18-yr-old, 4 others killed, buried 24-yr-old man

By Chinonso Alozie

**OWERRI**—THE Imo State Police Command, yesterday, exhumed the remains of the body of a 24-year-old man, Stanley Eluwa Ihechika, from a forest in Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area of the state, allegedly killed and buried by one 18-year-old Bobo John.

Speaking to newsmen at the scene, the Command's Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Andrew Enwerem, said it was in the same forest that the body of a 63-year-old woman was discovered.

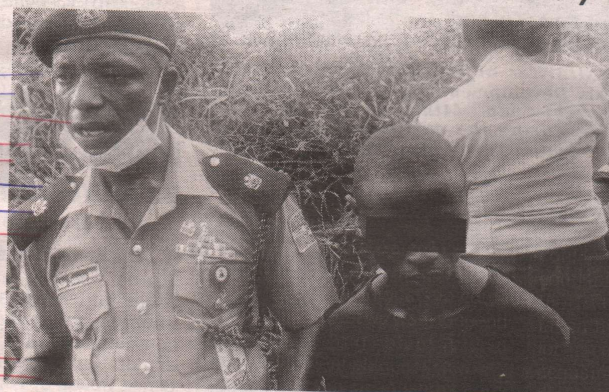
Enwerem said: "It is a story of robbery and murder of a missing man, one Stanley Eluwa Ihechika, age 24, who is from Awarra in Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area of Imo State. As a motorcyclist, he operates within Awarra and Umuagwo, in

injury and was inside the house.

The complainant told the court that her shout for help led to the arrest of the suspects, who shot into the air and threatened to shoot anyone that tried to stop them.

It was also alleged that the same gang had also attacked her in January last year, on her way home from her shop on a motorcycle.

She testified that she was pulled down from the motorcycle and her bag was pulled from her grasp by the same guy, who then hit her on the head with the butt of his gun, leaving her unconscious.



Pathologists, policemen and the suspect at the burial site, exhuming the remains of Stanley Eluwa in Ohaji Forest, Imo State. PHOTO: Chinonso Alozie.

the council area. He left home on October 5, but did not return home.

"The family reported the incident to the Police Division, Ohaji. The Police went into an investigation and, on October 24,

arrested one Bobo John, aged 18.

"He was arrested for a case of stealing an amplifier of New Life Bible Church, in Awarra. In the course of investigation, he was

the second accused person.

The second defendant, Femi, claimed that he was a bricklayer and was neither a robber nor did he possess a gun.

## Judgment

In his judgement, Justice Bola found Bashiru guilty of conspiracy, robbery and illegal possession of firearms.

He, however, said that the prosecution had failed to provide any evidence linking the defendants to the stealing of the power generating set and has no concrete evidence linking

identified as a member of secret cult group called Iceland.

"Also, following the investigation, Bobo revealed that the missing Stanley Eluwa was killed and buried

the second defendant to the commission of the crimes listed in the particulars of offence.

The defence counsel, Abdurrahman Yusuf, of the Legal Aid Council, urged the court to temper justice with mercy as his client was a first offender, who has aged parents and has been remorseful when he was in the prison custody.

The judge, who closed his ears to the plea, sentenced the first defendant to death by hanging and discharged and acquitted the second defendant.

by him and four others now at large."

## How we killed him—Suspect

Speaking to Vanguard, on how they killed Eluwa, Bobo said: "We were five in number. We saw the man and asked him to carry us to this forest. Two of us got on the motorcycle, while three were hiding in the bush.

"When the Okadaman brought us to the bush, one of us, David, alias Davido, used a metal to hit him and he fell down. I was shocked and immediately turned my back when they buried him. I was not happy."

On why they killed him, Bobo said: "My friend said that he killed one of his brothers. Let me say the truth, I did not get any money after they killed him. One of us left with the motorcycle."

