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Mob butchers, sets kidnapper ablaze in Calabar; chops off another's arm

By Ike Uchechukwu

CALABAR—A suspected kidnapper was, yesterday, hacked to death by a mob, while another member of the group was beaten to stupor and his hand chopped off, before he was handed over to the Police. The incident, *Vanguard* gathered, occurred along Mile 4 at Ikot Ansa in Calabar Municipality Local Government Area, Calabar.

An eyewitness, Rosemary Uchechi, said the incident occurred at 7:30a.m. when a four-man kidnap gang tried to abduct two children along Parliamentary Extension Road, when they were being taken to school by their mother.

According to the eyewitness, "the mother to the children was on her way to drop her two kids at school before they (kidnappers) blocked her with their vehicle and abducted her children.

"In the process, one of the kids raised the alarm, which attracted passers-by and people in the area, who, alongside Federal Housing Police Division officers, went after the kidnappers.

Caught

"When they got to Mile 4, it

was like they disappeared into thin air, not knowing they had entered a close. It was a brave lady that blocked them.

"The mob pounced on them and hacked the one that was holding a gun to death before setting him ablaze. The arm of a second suspect was cut off, with others escaping."

Vanguard learned that the

victims they tried to kidnap were family members of an oil worker living in Parliamentary area.

Contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Irene Ugbo, confirmed the incident, adding that they have arrested one of the suspects, while others were still at large.

Her words: "We have arrested one, while the other was set ablaze by a mob. We also have the Nissan they used to carry out the operation and the suspect has been handed over to SARS for further interrogation.

"We are working hard to apprehend other members of the group that escaped."

5 Badoo cult leaders granted bail, re-arrested

By Evelyn Usman

LAGOS—THERE were indications, yesterday, that five suspected members of a cult group allegedly responsible for the killings in Ikorodu area of Lagos State have been granted bail from prison, under what was described as questionable circumstance.

Although identities of the suspects, who were described as leaders of the dreaded Badoo cult group, could not be immediately ascertained, *Vanguard* gathered that three of them have been re-arrested by the Police.

The suspects were arrested during raids of criminal hideouts in the area, led by the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Police Command,

Imohimi Edgal, a few months ago and charged to court.

Shortly after their release from prison, they reportedly attempted to resume the massacre in the area.

However, acting on a tip-off, the Command's boss led a manhunt for their re-arrest, during which three of them were apprehended and are at the moment in Police custody, where sources hinted that they had given useful information that is helping Police in investigations.

Edgal, who confirmed the re-arrest during an interaction session with traditional rulers at the palace of Oba of Ikorodu, Abdulkabir Adewale Shotobi yesterday, disclosed that the command had begun investigation into

the circumstance that led to their release, with a view to sending them back to the prison.

Describing the suspects as endangered species that could cause havoc in the community, the Edgal charged the traditional rulers to join hands with the Police to eradicate their likes from the community.

He was, however, quick to caution members of the public against attributing cases of murder in Ikorodu to ritual killings by Badoo cult group, pointing out that by so doing, one was only mystifying the act.

In his response, Oba Shotobi noted that crime rate had dropped in the area since Edgal assumed office, even as he pledged the support of his chiefs and subjects to ensure that the tempo was sustained.