

Mob burns suspected ritualist to death in Lagos

●Suspect mentally deranged, no baby, weapons, cash found on her —Police

By Esther Onyegbula

LAGOS—A woman, suspected to be a ritualist, was burnt to death by an angry mob, Monday evening, at Abule-Ado, along the Mile-Two Badagry expressway, Lagos.

However, the Police said she was mentally unstable and subsequently vowed to arrest those behind the killing.

Residents said the unidentified woman, who pretended to be insane, was apprehended after they were alerted by the cry for help from a child she was alleged to have abducted.

A curious motorcyclist, who reportedly stopped to urinate by a bush path along the expressway, heard the desperate cry for help and was said to have alerted other persons when he discovered a little child that was allegedly held hostage by the woman.

A mob was said to have descended on her. When searched, she was alleged to have been found with an android phone, N3 million cash and three AK-47 rifles, which were kept in a sack inside the drainage system.

The mob descended on her and set her ablaze before the arrival of policemen from Area 'E' division.

When *Vanguard* arrived there, a commercial motorcyclist, Lawal Akindele, explained: "It was the cry of the toddler that drew the attention of one of us. As the cry of the child continued, he moved closer and found the child with the woman."

At the spot where she was burnt alive, charred bones, suspected to be that of a human jaw, spinal cord and thigh littered the ground. There were also clothes and shoes scattered around.

An identity card of a pupil was also recovered. Eyewitnesses said when the management of the school

was contacted, it claimed the said ID belongs to a missing pupil.

No baby, weapons, cash found on her
—Police

Reacting to the incident, Lagos State Police Command said it had commenced investigation into the killing of the woman whom it said was insane.

A spokesman for the command, CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, said: "Based on preliminary investigation, it was discovered that the mentally challenged woman had been living in the area for several years before she was lynched and

set ablaze by some hoodlums on the allegation of having a baby and three AK-47 rifles.

The command wishes to state categorically that the woman was just murdered for reasons best known to the perpetrators of the heinous crime, as the investigation revealed that no baby and AK-47 rifles were found in her possession, neither were they recovered by the perpetrators or the police. It's just a clear case of murder.

The Commissioner of Police has, therefore, ordered that the matter be transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department, Panti, Yaba-Lagos for proper investigation and that the culprits should be arrested and charged to court for murder.

Murder of bizman: Suspected military officer arrested in A-Ibom

By Chioma Onuegbu

UYO—A man suspected to be an army officer has been arrested by the Police in Akwa Ibom State over the alleged murder of a businessman in Ikot Abasi Local Government Area of the state.

It was gathered that the suspected army officer killed the businessman, Sunday, and dispossessed him of his vehicle after the deceased, whose identity could not be ascertained at press time gave him a ride.

A reliable source disclosed in Uyo, yesterday, that the suspect was tracked and arrested at Ukanafun Local Government Area, and the vehicle, including a rifle, recovered from him.

The source said: "The incident happened on Sunday. A motorist offered the suspected army officer a ride in his vehicle, not knowing that he was going to kill him. They got

to a place, the suspected army man attacked and killed him before dumping his corpse by the roadside.

"The attention of the police was drawn to the incident and they recovered the corpse, which they deposited at a mortuary. The deceased relatives came to the Police station in Ikot Abasi for assistance on Monday.

"Fortunately, the vehicle had a tracking device. So the police assisted them in tracking the vehicle. They traced the car to Ukanafun Local Government Area, where they surrounded the place and arrested the man, recovered the vehicle, and an AK-47 rifle from him."

Contacted, Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Odiko MacDon, confirmed the incident and simply added: "The matter is still under investigation, we are trying to get the report and also trying to determine the identity of the person involved."