

2 arrested over killing of 8-yr-old boy in Delta

By Ochuko Akuopha & Efe Onodjae

THE Delta State Police Command has arrested one Mr. Destiny Ogbeh with his master for the alleged killing of Progress Agidi, an eight-year-old boy for ritual purposes.

Vanguard gathered that Destiny Ogbeh, an apprentice to a native doctor in the community, allegedly lured Progress to accompany him into the bush to fetch firewood, where the eight-year-old was eventually killed.

It further learned that Ogbeh was allegedly paid N30,000 to lure the boy into the bush. According to the father of the deceased, Mr. Ifeanyi Agidi, in a phone call with *Vanguard*, the search for his son began on November 23, 2024, after efforts to locate him within the immediate vicinity proved abortive.

His words: "My name is Ifeanyi Agidi, a resident of Efeizomor by Eboigbe Street, Owa

Alero, a town in Ika North-East LGA of Delta State. I am a roadside vulcaniser. On November 23, this year, I suddenly noticed that my eight-year-old son, Progress, was nowhere to be found. My wife and I, with the rest of the family, immediately launched a search, but we could not find him in the immediate area.

"Later, someone told us that they overheard Destiny Ogbeh telling Progress to accompany him to the bush to fetch firewood. We went to the house of the native doctor where Destiny Ogbeh was apprentice, but he and his master denied seeing my son.

"When we had searched almost everywhere and still could not find Progress, we decided to go to the nearby Owa Oyibu police station to make a report. We were told that, since it had not yet been 24 hours since the boy went missing, we should go back, continue searching, and return after 24 hours had passed.

"At this point, the village vigilante group got involved in the search for the missing child. It was later that the lifeless body of my son was discovered in an uncompleted building near the bush. His throat had been slit, and his blood drained, in what appeared to be a ritual killing.

The police were called in, and they took the body to the mortuary. The police launched a manhunt for Destiny Ogbeh and his master, who had gone into hiding. They were eventually apprehended, and Destiny Ogbeh confessed that he was the one who lured my son into the bush to be killed. He said he was promised N30,000 for the job. He also named one Dr. Jonah, another native doctor involved in the murder, who lives in Otolokpo, a nearby town.

When *Vanguard* contacted the state Public Relations Officer, Bright Edefe, the phone rang out.