

VILLAGE HEAD, OTHERS CAUGHT WITH WOMAN'S HEAD



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Saturday, 01 September 2007

A group of five suspected ritualists including a village head have been arrested with a 60-year-old woman's head and are now in police custody, the Borno State police command said.

The police alleged that the suspects were apprehended after they killed the woman and buried the head with twenty naira note placed on the head.

Parading the five suspects in Maiduguri, the state's police commissioner, Danlami Yar'Adua said the suspects were arrested in Gedebe Village, Bayo Local Government Area of Borno State were one of them allegedly led the operation, killed the woman identified as Binta Danfulani in her farm, early last week.

Yar'adua said that the principal suspect, Kabiru Usman had trailed the woman to her farm land in the early morning of August 21, and used a hoe, which was also recovered by the police, to hit her severally.

After killing the woman, the police said Usman used a sharp object, suspected to be knife to cut off the woman's head before burying it together with a twenty naira note placed on the head.

Yar'Adua added that after the villagers found the lifeless body lying in the farm land, they alerted the police. The principal suspect was said to have addressed a letter to the village head, recovered by the police, seeking to be pardoned as he was said to have gone into hiding after he was being suspected.

Following police investigation, Usman was apprehended and during interrogation, the police said he confessed that it was the village head, Lawan Usman Musa who requested him along with three other men, Shua'ibu Umaru, Buba Adamu and Adamu Usman, all arrested, to cut-off a woman's head and bury it with a twenty naira note and promised each of them the sum of N200,000.

The principal suspect later led the police to a point, behind a clay fence in the village where the buried head was uncovered with twenty naira note on top.

Speaking to newsmen, Usman, the principal suspect, dismissed the allegation insisting that they were wrongly fingered by Kabir Usman.

On his part, Kabir Usman spoke in contradictions. He had earlier corroborated the police statement, but again introduced another dimension, that it was one Alhaji Ibrahim in Gombe State and not the village head who contracted them for the human head. In another remark, he said he killed the woman under drug influence.

Sources told *Weekly Trust* that the principal suspect had earlier at the divisional police headquarters in Bayo Local Government implicated the village head.

But after investigation, the village head was about to be released on bail but the DPO according to the source became suspicious. The police, it was gathered then concluded that the village head was a collaborator as he apparently wanted to prevent further information from the suspect.

The Borno commissioner of police, Danlami Yar'Adua said the police is carrying out investigation to find out the truth of the matter and will make all those found guilty to face the wrath of the law.

Recently, cases of mutilated dead bodies have been on the rise in different parts of the state. The latest corpse was that of a day-old-baby whose body was found around the Monday Market in Maiduguri, with the baby's intestine removed.

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