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Jungle Justice for Suspected Ritualist

Weekly Trust (Abuja)

NEWS

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By Hassan A. Karofi
Kano

It was a sad end through a painful death for suspected ritualist after he was caught attempting to seize two teenagers in Kwanar Dangora along Kano-Kaduna expressway.

To the mob, it was a successful outing in their fight to rid their area of suspected ritual activities that have claimed lives in this calm Kano boarder community located 77 kilometres away from Kano City. On Sunday, September 16, the villagers ambushed a suspected ritualist attempting to slaughter two school boys like a ram.

The incident came few days after a junior secondary school teenager was believed to have been kidnapped by ritualists.

On that fateful day, the residents said two teenage school boys were on their way to the farm after the usual school hours and they were stopped by a man selling yoghurt riding the familiar Fan Yoghout bike.

The boys became suspicious of the new unfamiliar face especially sequel to their recent experience of ritual murder. They, therefore, ignored him and continued with their walk.

The yoghurt vendor followed them and started running after the boys.

The community alleged that he was running after the boys in order to kill and remove parts of their bodies.

Narrating how the incident happened to Weekly Trust, one of the boys, Saifullahi Sani alias Yala said at around 11am on that day, they were wandering about in a nearby bush just behind their school when they were beckoned by a man riding a Fan Yoghout bicycle.

"He asked us to come but because we were still in the fear of what happened to late Musa some days ago, we refused and decided to run, but he chased us," he said.

Saifullahi said while they were being pursued by the suspected ritualist, they decided to run towards the town instead of going further into the bush.

"We decided to run towards the town so that we could be lucky to meet someone along the road, but he kept pursuing us after he abandoned his bicycle," he added.

While the pursuance was on, the two boys ran into a nearby thick sugarcane farm and the suspected ritualist was able to meet up with them as they could not run faster.

Saifullahi said he was hit by the ritualist's knife on the head as the man tried to attack and kill them before they could reach the town.

"He hit and cut me deep into my head as he attacked us with a knife he was carrying, but I kept on running while he continued to stab me all over," Saifullahi narrated.

Saifullahi was after the struggle, over powered by his attacker. He said after he pounced on him, the suspect attempted to cut-off his throat at the same time pouring abuses on the boy.

"He used his legs to hit me and I fell, while he got hold of my throat as he rained abuses on me, he also brought out the knife he used on me earlier to cut my throat," he said.

While this was going on, Saifullahi's friend, Auwalu, came from behind and hit the ritualist and he let go Saifullahi.

"I was saved when Auwalu from nowhere came to my rescue and he hit the ritualist on his head and started running again shouting and calling for help," he said.

As the boys ran for survival, the ritualist again chased them hoping to end what he had intended, unknown to him he was nearer to the town where the villagers were keeping vigilance after the brutal murder of another teenager some days ago.

"We were running and shouting when some Okada people saw us, they came towards where we were coming from and that was how we were rescued. The Okada men came shouting, calling for help and they later mobilised themselves and descended on him," Saifullahi added.

Auwalu told Weekly Trust that he could not say how he was able to save his friend when the ritualist was on him.

"I could not say what happened because I only saw myself hitting him as we ran again to the road with Saifullahi," he said that was all he could

remember.

Auwalu, unlike Saifullahi, did not sustain any injury from the struggle, but said it would be the last time he will ever go near any farm.

"I have decided never to go anywhere near any bush or farm because just recently our friend, Musa, was killed and now we escaped by the whiskers too", he added.

Grandmother to Saifullahi, Malama Gaje, told Weekly Trust that they have resorted to prayers to thank Allah for saving her grandchild.

"He just returned from Kano where he met the Emir who sent for him, we can only be grateful to Allah for saving him and to the people who prevented the ritualist from killing my grand son," she said.

One of the Okada men who rescued the teenagers, Kabiru Kwali, told Weekly Trust that he was coming towards the town centre when he saw two boys being pursued by someone and he was thinking they were just relatives,. But he later saw the man with a knife.

"I then decided to stop and call my colleagues. As we moved towards the boys, when they came to us, we saw one of them bleeding profusely from a cut he sustained," he said.

Within minutes, the suspected ritualist was seized by the mob and he was immediately set ablaze with bonfire made around his neck.

The ritualist remains were gathered and buried in a nearby road side. After that the whole village immediately erupted in a celebration for the 'glorious outing'.

Weekly Trust was also told of how another boy, 13-year-old Musa Bashari was brutally killed by suspected ritualists few days before the attack on Saifullahi and Nasiru.

According to mother of the deceased, Malama Hajara Bashari, Musa left in the morning as usual to school but only his dead body was found later in the afternoon.

"They brought his corpse here and I was prevented from even seeing his body for the last time because I was told it was in a horrible condition. They killed him innocently because someone wants to make worldly gains from his live, the curse of Allah will continue to follow whoever was responsible for his death," she said.

Malam Sani Jibrin, a member of Kwanar Dangora youth organization, told Weekly Trust that they have resolved to engage in vigilance to stop to such ugly trend, and they have decided to deal with anyone found either helping the ritualists.

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