

Nigerian police hold 'magic' goat over attempted car theft

Police in Nigeria are holding a goat accused of attempting to steal a car.

Last Updated: 6:50PM GMT 23 Jan 2009

The black and white animal was turned in to police by a vigilante group, which claimed it was an armed car thief who had used black magic to transform himself into a goat to escape arrest after trying to steal a Mazda 323.

"The group of vigilante men came to report that while they were on patrol they saw some hoodlums attempting to rob a car," Tunde Mohammed, a spokesman for Kwara state police, told Reuters.

"They pursued them. However, one of them escaped while the other turned into a goat," he said. While Mr Mohammed said he could not confirm whether a man had, in fact, turned into a goat, he did admit that the animal was in police custody. A photo of the goat, resting on its knees next to a pile of straw, was published in Nigeria's Vanguard newspaper.

Reports citing a different police spokesman said the animal was being held at the station until its owner came to claim it.

Belief in witchcraft is widespread in parts of Nigeria. Many communities in Africa's most populous nation rely on vigilante groups to patrol neighbourhoods that are not served by police at night.

Related Content

More on Nigeria

[Nigerian kidnappers in 'threat to kill' UK girl](#)

[Police foil £80m robbery at Heathrow](#)

[The many times that Mr Houlker had a go](#)

[Arab student 'kicked to death in racists' attack'](#)

[Back to top](#)

© Copyright of Telegraph Media Group Limited 2009